

After a few days the elderly servant of God revisited him, finding his face full of grief and pain. So he asked the young believer: "Why are you so sad? Do not let Satan deceive you!"

He answered: "I know my sins have been forgiven." "Then why are you so sad?" Forlornly he answered: "My days on earth are quite finished. What can I bring to the Lord when I shall stand before Him? My hands are empty. Must I go and see the Lord empty-handed?"

Such was the reason for his grief. In answer, the elderly man comforted him by saying: "Brother, do not be discouraged. I will use your word to write a song. And whoever is constrained by this song to go abroad to preach the gospel and win souls, you shall have the reward." Now this was the song that Charles C. Luther wrote which has since become famous: "Must I go and empty-handed? Must I meet my Saviour so?" Many have been aroused by this song and have fervently served the Lord. Although this young man had lost many of his days, he still retained a little heart desire for the Lord at his dying, and the Lord fulfilled it.

May we all remember our days! May our lost days be restored: May each day be equal to a thousand days. And may we step by step walk in the light of God's will!

—Watchman Nee, Practical Issues of This Life, pp. 89-90



Central Mountains Baptist Church

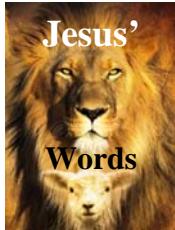
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Empty Handed?

Once there was a young man who fell into sin and was dying of tuberculosis. An elderly servant of God preached the gospel to him, telling him how the Lord Jesus had borne all his sins, and urging him to repent, confess his sins and receive the Lord Jesus to be his Saviour.

At first this youth felt quite reluctant, being obsessed with the thought of how ever could the Lord forgive such a sinner as he. Yet finally he did accept the Lord and was saved. He felt so happy and peaceful.





So What Do I Get?

In Matthew 19:27-20:16 and the parallel passage in Mark Jesus describes 3 sets of reward that God designed to encourage our service:

1. Positions of _____, 16:27-28

(Mark 1:16-17) "... He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. {17} Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

(Mark 10:21) "... One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

(Revelation 20:1-3) "Then I saw an angel .. having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. {2} He laid hold of ..Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; {3} and he cast him into the bottomless pit, .. so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

(Revelation 20:4) And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus ... And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years."

(Isaiah 11:6-9) ""The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, ... {7} .. And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. {8} The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, ... {9} They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea."

(Isaiah 11:11-12) "It shall come to pass in that day That the LORD shall set His hand again the second time To recover the remnant of His people ... {12} .. And gather together the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth."

(Revelation 20:6) "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall .. reign with Him a thousand years."

(Luke 19:17-19) ""And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.' {18} "And the second came, ..." {19} "Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.'

(Luke 19:26) "For I say to you, .. even what he has will be taken away from him."

(2 Corinthians 5:15) "and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."

2. Earthly _____, 16:29

(Mark 10:29-30) "So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands,



for My sake and the gospel's, {30} "who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time; houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions; ..." (Luke 6:38) ""Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

(Galatians 6:9) "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

(Matthew 5:10-12) "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. {11} "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. {12} "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

(Luke 9:61-62) "And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." {62} But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

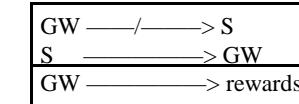
(Titus 1:6) "if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination."

3. The _____, 16:29-20:16

(1 Peter 1:3-5) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who .. has begotten us again .. {4} to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, {5} who are kept by the power of God ..."

(Colossians 3:24) "knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."

(1 Corinthians 3:11-14) "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. {12} Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, {13} each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. {14} If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward."



(Revelation 22:12) ""And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."

(Revelation 4:1-2) "After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. ... {2} Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne."

(Revelation 4:4) "Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads."

(Revelation 4:10-11) "the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him .., and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: {11} "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; ...""

