

## Parables Lesson 28 Handout



### **2 Corinthians 11:24–26**

**24** Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. **25** Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. **26** I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not.

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**2 Chronicles 34:1–3** Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left. For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.

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**Genesis 39:8** But Joseph refused. “Look,” he told her, “my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. **9** No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God.”

**Timothy Peck:**

**Most people in our culture seem to think that it's okay to be religious so long as you don't take your religion too seriously.**

**Many people today treat religion and faith as a kind of hobby, as if some people are into stamp collecting, some people are into building models airplanes, and other people are into religion.**

**In this way of thinking, religious faith something you do on your spare time, something you do for recreation to relax. That much religion most people in our culture can accept.**

**But when someone starts taking their faith seriously, that's when people get worried. When people start to let their faith influence their decisions and their lifestyle choices—who they vote for, how they spend their money, how they raise their kids—that's when people get nervous.**

**People start whispering words like "fanatic," "zealot" and even the dreaded word "fundamentalist." Many people envision people of faith as wide-eyed fanatics storing up extra food and water in their garage while they await Armageddon with guns in their basement.**

**So when we say that our mission as a church is to reach unchurched people with Christ's love and to help them grow into fully devoted followers of Jesus, that makes some people a little nervous.**

**Just get them  
cleaned up, a little  
religious, just  
enough to be good  
for society, but not  
fully devoted.**

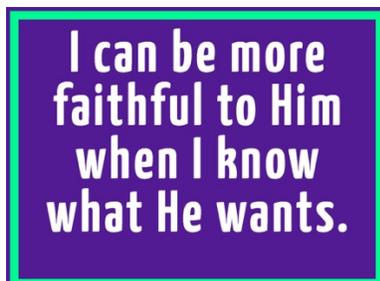
**“Fully devoted followers” – faithful followers - sounds too radical, too dangerous, too extravagant. Yet when it comes to the Christian faith, nothing less than full devotion to Jesus will do.**



### **Numbers 21:4–5**

**4 Then the people of Israel set out from Mount Hor, taking the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom. But the people grew impatient with the long journey,  
5 and they began to speak against God and Moses. “Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?” they complained. “There is nothing to eat here and nothing to drink. And we hate this horrible manna!”**

**Numbers 21:6 So the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people, and many were bitten and died.**



**Joshua 1:8–9**

**8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.**

**9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”**

**Proverbs 8:34**

**34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.**

*They knew Him  
not just as an  
acquaintance  
but intimately.*

**Luke 12:<sup>42</sup> And the Lord replied, “A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them**

**Our job is to  
know  
everything  
about Him.**

**Luke 12:43 If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. <sup>44</sup> I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns.**

**We have  
to serve.**

**Mark 10: 35** Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do us a favor."

**36** "What is your request?" he asked.

**37** They replied, "When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left."

**41** When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant.

**42** So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them.

**43** But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant,

**44** and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else.

**45** For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

<b>We have a choice.</b>	<b>We can take our job serving God VERY SERIOUS</b>	<b>We can play the "spiritual game"</b>
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**45** But what if the servant thinks, 'My master won't be back for a while,' and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk?<sup>**46**</sup> The master will return unannounced and unexpected, and he will cut the servant in pieces and banish him with the unfaithful. <sup>**47**</sup>

**“And a servant who knows what the master wants, but isn’t prepared and doesn’t carry out those instructions, will be severely punished.**

**How serious  
do we take  
our faith?**

So often we get too  
comfortable with our job.  
We stop taking it serious.  
We forget who we are  
working for.

**There is a word -‘agency problem.’ The ‘problem’ arises because the person running a business is not usually the owner.**

**Manager -What happens is that over time the Manager becomes less looking out for the interests of the owner and more in the interests of himself. Lunch expenses drift to the high end. Travel becomes first class instead of economy. Offices are furnished to a very high standard. Wages rise faster than inflation. Vacation times become longer. Benefits packages increase.**

**The Manager runs the business for his own benefit, not for the benefit of the owner. That’s the ‘agency problem.’**

What happens is we start thinking in terms of "Jesus is way up there in heaven" and I can do what I want down here because He clearly isn't coming back that soon.

**48 But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.**