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Friend, I Do Thee No Wrong

Matthew 20:13, “But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?”

When reading and studying the Bible a person will often run across verses of scripture that will draw their attention slightly more than others. The verse previously cited is one that has been in my thoughts in recent weeks. The verse is taken from a Parable told by the Lord concerning the Kingdom of Heaven, or the Church. In this Parable, you will find a group who are murmuring and complaining concerning what was given to them after their labor for the day. The “householder” in the Parable speaks and says “Friend, I do thee no wrong.” The “householder” had not cheated, swindled or lied to anyone. He did as he had promised to do with that which belonged to him. He had done no wrong to any man.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this is true concerning the Lord’s dealings with every man. The Lord has done no wrong to anyone. I suppose we all can recall a time when we felt slighted in the world of merchandise. How many times have you heard of the person who believed an exercise machine commercial only to get it home and not experience the results promised? Many feel a bit cheated by the political world when a politician makes a promise to get your vote and never really

fulfills what he said he would do, once elected. Many have been mistreated in the workforce. I remember a man named Jacob in Genesis 30:7 who was deceived by his own uncle concerning his wages. But it is not so with the Lord. The Lord has never wronged any person. God has blessed us all far and beyond what we will ever deserve. I love the hymn “The Lord has Been so Good to Me”. It reads:

The Lord has been so good to me,
I want to sing His praise,
I want to glorify His name
all my remaining days.

Chorus

*The Lord has been so good to me,
I will on Him depend;
And everyday wherever I be,
I would His truth defend.*

I want to follow in His steps
And show my love this way;
I want to lift His banner up,
Each fair or cloudy day.

I want to mingle with His saints
While here on earth I stay,
And meet them on the golden shore
On that eternal day.

Lord Jesus, wilt Thou mercy show
And save me by Thy grace,

That I may when this life is over
Look on Thy lovely face.

And in the land of endless bliss,
Where all the praise is Thine,
Some humble place at Thy dear feet,
May this poor sinner find

Every time this hymn is selected in worship, my heart is convicted because I have failed to thank God enough for all His goodness and mercy. The hymn stirs my mind to think back on my sinful life and all the times the Lord provided, helped and strengthened me, even though I was but a prodigal in my own way. Jacob said in Genesis 32:10, “I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant;..” I am convinced that we all should be able to make this statement without any hesitation. And if we have any struggles in seeing how the Lord has been good to us and has not wronged us throughout our earthly pilgrimage, we may be thinking way to highly of ourselves than we ought to think, which is a horrible sin in itself (Romans 12:3; Proverbs 6:16-19; Proverbs 8:13).