

FIVE LINKS OF FELLOWSHIP

Gathered TOGETHER

"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20)

Knit TOGETHER

"that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ" (Colossians 2:2)

Perfectly Joined TOGETHER

"Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." (1 Corinthians 1:10)

Striving TOGETHER

"Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27)

Caught Up TOGETHER

"Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

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Questions & Replies by John T. Polk II, www.johntpolkll.com

QUESTION: "Is it wrong to make a profit and have things?"

ANSWER: No, because Jesus used business principles, without condemnation, to illustrate spiritual lessons.

1. Labor Contracts, Matthew 20:1-16: "A landowner" hires day-laborers for the 12-hour workday on the 1st, 3rd, 6th, 9th and 11th hours of the day, each agreeing "for a denarius a day" wage calling it "whatever is right I will give you." When the 11th hour workers were paid the same wage as those "who have borne the burden and the heat of the day," "they complained against the landowner." "But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take *what is yours* and go your way. I wish to give to this last man *the same* as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?"

(Matthew 20:13-15). Sellers Crain rightly interpreted the landowners' position by commenting: "He no doubt felt compassion for the men hired last. If he only paid them for one hour, the men would not have enough for their families' needs." (p. 190, *Truth for Today Commentary, Matthew 14-28*, Resource Publications, 2205 S. Benton, Searcy, AR 72143, Copyright 2011) [This 2-volume commentary on Matthew is the most thorough, yet easily understood commentary on the Book of Matthew, jtpll]

1) It was not wrong for the landowner to own land and be blessed with the ability to hire workers for his own labors;

2) It was not wrong to pay each worker according to that worker's agreement;

3) It was not wrong for the landowner to, compassionately, pay the last hired workers the same day's wage as others had also agreed upon;

4) It was not wrong for the landowner, as he said, "to what I wish with my own things." Private possession is NOT wrong, except in "evil eyes," i.e. a selfish, covetous, envious attitude. Such is the attitude of "thieves and robbers," who Jesus said "does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy" (**John 10:10**).

5) Sellers Crain points out concerning the term

"landowner," "Often, in parables, it refers to Jesus or God ([**Matthew**] 10:25; 13:27; 20:1; 21:33; Lk. 13:25; 14:21)." (p. 185, *op. cit.*). God, or Jesus Christ, would NEVER be portrayed in any parable as violating, or contradicting, good morals, because, as Jesus said, "No one is good but One, that is, God" (**Matthew 19:17**).

2. The parable is explaining how we who are baptized into Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-5**) may receive the same salvation as those in the 1st Century who were persecuted (**Acts 8:3**).**

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Free Booklet: "Are Modern Jews God's Chosen People?"
<https://johntpolkll.com/files/documents/AreTheJewsGodsChosenPeopleToday.pdf>

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

~"Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and
 Knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful."

~Samuel Johnson

~Passed a church parking lot – once paved, always paved.

~Real health is not a pill. It's a practice.

~Teachers open the door – You enter by yourself

---Chinese Proverb

~If you get up one more time than you fall,
 you will make it through.

---Chinese Proverb

Five Gifts to Give to Jesus

→ The gift of **LOVING** - those who are lost.

→ The gift of **CARING** - for those we minister to.

→ The gift of **LISTENING** - to the cry for help.

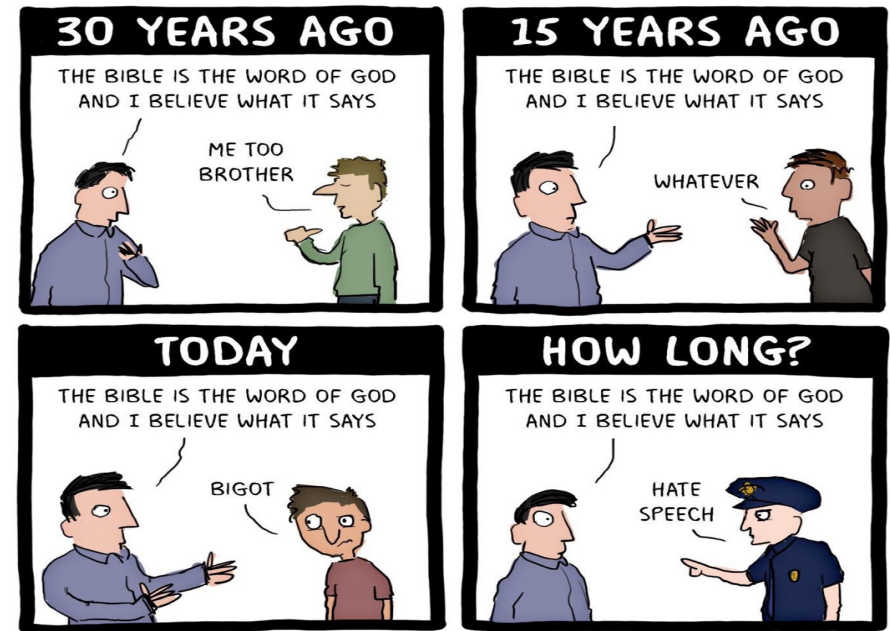
→ The gift of **RESPONDING** - with hope from God's Word.

→ The gift of **ENCOURAGING** - those who have given their lives to Jesus.



THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD AND I BELIEVE WHAT IT SAYS

CARTOONS | 30TH JAN 2017



TAKE UP GOD'S CUP

Because Jesus drank the cup of sorrow and sacrifice (Matt. 26:39, 42)...

...I have the opportunity to have the cup of salvation (Psa. 116:134)

Because I have taken up the cup of salvation...

...My cup of blessings continually overflows (Psa. 23:5)

...I no longer need to fear the cup of the Lord's fury (Isa. 51:17)

...I should give cups of cold water to those who need it (Matt. 10:42)

...I am expected to keep my cup clean inside and out (Matt. 23:26)

...I can partake of the cup of communion with the Lord (1 Cor. 10:16)



"O LORD, You are the portion
 of my inheritance
 and my cup..."
 (Psa. 16:5)

- Edd Sterchi