

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

LOOK

Most of us are motivated by reward and recognition. Some of our best parenting and managerial strategies are based on this idea. But not all rewards are so tangible.

1. Describe a task in your life that requires a very tangible reward.
2. Now describe a task or job that you will do whether or not you are rewarded or recognized for it. Why?

BOOK Luke 17:1-10

Including the paragraphs both before and after the mustard seed statement may help inform our understanding of it. Note that Jesus' audience is not the crowd, but the disciples.

1. If you had to choose a word or short phrase to title or describe each of the 3 paragraphs, what would it be? (vs. 1-4, 5-6, 7-10)
2. What is the work of discipleship as it is laid out in this passage? What is it not?
3. The disciples enthusiastically asked Jesus to increase their faith but that didn't seem to be the right question. What would be a better question or prayer about faith?

TOOK

Tiny mustard seeds grow into big beautiful bushes. But they have to be planted and watered.

1. What sort of care and attention does our faith require?
2. What reward or lack thereof can we expect from the work of discipleship?
3. How is faith passed along?