Grievances

Tony Mauck · Luke 15:29–32

INTRODUCTION

- The elder brother had a grievance, and that grievance seemed reasonable to him.
- Well, as I thought about the grievance and the fact that everybody has them, I have seen in local churches and among the Lord's people the problem of grievances.

1 Grievances About the Local Church

Luke 12:13–21

- Every place I've ever been, to some extent or another, there were people who had grievances about the local church.
- It has often been my experience that a lot of the grievances that people have about the local church really don't matter a whole lot in the whole scheme of things.
- That grievance was about fairness and about justice. This is not a fair situation.
- Beware of covetousness. A man's life does not consist in the abundance of a thing which a person possesses.

2 Who's Promoting Unnecessary Grievances

2 Corinthians 11:8–9; 2 Corinthians 11:14

- Let me tell you who's behind that, promoting all of that. And we learn that from the example of the Apostle Paul in relationship to Corinth.
- They are questioning his legitimacy as a representative of Jesus.
- For Satan transforms himself into an angel of light.
- When the devil promotes this conflict, unnecessary grievances among the Lord's people, this division is what he's after.

3 Members Say and Do Things They Should Not

- Sometimes members say things and do things they should not.
- So if you think this is going to be an arena, this refuge we talked about this morning, where everybody always behaves perfectly all the time, you're going to have a grievance.
- Brethren will not always act in a way that pleases you or satisfies you. They will not always agree with you on everything.

4 Do Not Complain, Brethren, Against One Another

James 5:8–10; 1 Thessalonians 5:12–18

- A lot of the things that people have grievances about are just personal preferences, things that they wish would have gone a certain way or someone would do a certain way.

- Do not complain, brethren, against one another. And that's what the elder brother is doing in Luke chapter 15.
- Admonish the unruly. Encourage the faint hearted. Some are weak, help them. Be patient with all men.
- Take your attention off the negative. Focus on the positives. Move things toward a positive.

5 Grievances in Marriage

1 Corinthians 7:33–34; Romans 12:20–21

- But I think this happens in marriage, too. No one can live up to the demands of perfection.
- Maintaining a list of grievances will never bring you to a better place in your marriage.
- We ought to approach marriage. How can I please you?
- So, yeah, it may not be reciprocated, but you know what? You'll be like the Lord.

6 Have You Ever Grieved God by Your Sin?

Isaiah 1; Ephesians 4:30; 1 John 4:20–21

- God has had grievances with his people who have rebelled against him and sinned against him.
- When we don't live consistently with the instruction of the New Testament, we grieve our God.
- It doesn't have to be a big sin. I can hold others in contempt and sow discord among God's people, and that grieves our God.
- Just perhaps we might be able to generate a little more compassion, a little more mercy, a little more understanding and patience with those grievances that we have.

THE CHALLENGE

Won't you put on Christ while there's time and opportunity? Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling upon the name of the Lord.

MY NOTES