

## The “Throne of the Undeceived”

A well-dressed middle-aged businessman comes seeking consultation in a somewhat formal dress and manner:

My dear Lord, I have been a highly successful businessman for many years. However, I have encountered unexpected losses in my vast business enterprises over the past few years. I was advised by my friends to seek the spiritual path. This I did, meditating each morning and praying faithfully more often than once each day for the past two years, but nothing that I can account for has significantly improved in my general state. I come to you now seeking guidance, having exhausted all of my options.

*“There are many who do these things for many months or years and come to Me with open hands asking: “Lord, where is my reward?” But the kingdom of Heaven is like a wealthy landlord who employed a group of men, needing work to help keep up his many properties, for a certain sum per hour. And when the men were put to work, one man approached the landlord at the end of each hour requesting the agreed upon hourly wage, and it was given to him. At the end of that first day, the landlord called this man to him and said: “I have observed your work this day and find that you are not worth what I am paying you. So take your wages for the day and do not return.” And then did the man protest: “But, lord, I have worked as well and better than most of the other men.” And the landlord answered: “They too will be judged after they have requested their wages. For some request payment upon every hour, and some at the end of the day or week, and some will work without recompense until the end of the month. But those who wait the longest are assured of being paid the most in the final balancing of God’s books.”*

*For remember and dwell upon this: If Jesus prayed until the beads of sweat poured down his brow like blood, how then must you and all men pray for the salvation of your souls.*