

The Millionth Rule

The celebration began on one of the higher floors, where all of the managers have their swank offices. It spread from there and descended to the floors where the workers' desks were laid out in a vast array of cubicles. The joyful noise became louder and louder as the employees felt the beginning of excitement. The party burst upon them with noise-makers, tickertape, and balloons. Everyone's faces began to brighten, and look with eager expectation for the explanation. It looked like when a superstore has a celebration for their millionth customer.

It actually turned out to be very much like that. The chief of operations announced that the company and all of its affiliates had just created the millionth rule! The joy of the moment faded, though, as did the expressions on the faces of the workers when they found the reason for the jubilation. It was not a happy time from their perspective. It was as though the goal of the managers was simply to create more rules.

As they went back to work, they found that congratulatory emails had been sent to all employees. They knew that the quantity of rules only served to help the company cover themselves, and blame the workers. With so many rules, no one could possibly remember all of them, or take the time to even read them all! Everyone was frustrated with trying to remember all of them. And they knew how much time the rule processes took from their workday. Some rules were electronically updated several times in one day! There were so many people employed in the rule generation and upkeep process, that the cost was much greater than any advantage that they brought!

The bosses returned to their upper floors, leaving an even larger separation between them and the workers than before. They enjoyed their fancy offices, but the workers, who made the company profitable, could be found huddling in a corner of the lower floor weeping and gnashing their teeth¹.

1. Luke 13:28