

## The Kingdom Parables

### The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard

#### Matthew 20:1-16

An hours pay for an hours work, you reap what you sow

You get out of it what you put into it, a day's wage for a day's work

***Life is never fair, and perhaps it is a good thing for most of us that it is not. - Oscar Wilde***

God is not fair - Hallelujah! He is just, compassionate and GRACIOUS

**Romans 6:23** - what is fair is death - separation from God.

**Background - Matthew 19:16-22** - Story of rich young ruler turning away

Read **Matthew 19:23-26** - Christ's response to question

Peter - asked - what will we get - response **28-30**

This parable is not about salvation -- no one can earn it

This parable is not about rewards - It is about attitude!

#### I. A Simple Story

##### A. Normal life

No miracles, not Old Testament quotes, no heavy theological terms and no blatant sins.

##### B. Some uniqueness

Landowner himself did hiring

Repeated went to find more - harvest ready, urgent

##### C. The landowner hired

Two groups - 6am agreed to price

- One denarius (pay of Soldier) very generous for laborer

Those hired at 9am, 12noon, 3pm, 5pm

- What is Right - trusted goodness of landowner,

##### D. The landowner paid

Started with the last first (**19:30** and **20:16**)

Paid one denarius to each group

#### II. A Sinking Sin

##### A. Their grumbling

Complaint - they were made equal to us

Comparison - we worked all day -- in scorching heat!

Their hearts were revealed - Love of money - **Ecclesiastes 5:10**

##### B. His answer

**Friend** - one chosen to work for me

I have treated you as we agreed - generous wages

**I wish** (desire), It is lawful, and it belongs to me

##### C. His verdict

Your evil eye - envious - of other

Not for me greed but for my generosity

#### Note the steps

**Lack of appreciation** - **Romans 1:21** no thanks -

**Pride** - we worked harder, better, deserve more

**Comparison** - Warning **1 Corinthians 4:5** **Romans 12:3**

**Coveting** - you made them equal with us

**Complaining spirit** - **Philippians 2:14** - Do all without complaining

**Critical spirit** - nothing God does is good enough

#### III. A Scandalous Grace

**A. God's very nature is grace** - **Exodus 34:6**

**B. Old Testament examples Abraham and David**

Jonah complained about it - **Jonah 4:2**

King Manasseh experienced it. **2 Chronicles 33:1-2, 6, 10-13**

**C. New Testament examples**

Prodigal son's older brother in **Luke 15**

Zaccheus in **Luke 19** Saul - Paul in **Acts 9**

**D. Modern day examples**

Jeffery Dahmer arrested in 1991 for horrendous crimes

Asked God for forgiveness - Rev Roy Ratcliff - Dark Journey -

Deep Grace about his conversion

But you and I are also just as guilty before God and need grace

#### What are the lessons of Grace that we should learn?

**1. God is sovereign and gracious toward all**

He calls us personally - He gives us not what we deserve but what He has paid for - Grace

**2. Everyone who serve will be treated with grace**

We always receive better than we deserve

**3. God desires for you to respond to His grace**

Receive it with joy and thanksgiving - appreciation/worship

Serve Him in love with diligence and faithfulness

Rejoice over His grace in the lives of others

***God is not fair -- He is Grace!***