

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 21 Jan 2024

Text: Matthew 20:1-16

Message/Questions: John Brewer

Matthew Ch 20 flows directly from Jesus' interaction with the "rich young man" in Ch 19. Jesus tells the rich young man to sell everything he owns and come follow Him. The young man goes away sad because he has great possessions. Jesus tells the disciples, "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." Jesus tells the disciples that they and other Christ followers who have sacrificed for the kingdom will inherit great riches in the Kingdom. However, he punctuates that discussion with "But many who are first will be last, and the last first." Thus, Jesus gives the parable of the laborers in the vineyard to make the disciples, and us by extension, consider what that phrase means. In the parable, the early laborers begrudge the generosity the master of the house shows to the workers who came later. This parable contrasts our normal understanding of a work-reward relationship. In the kingdom of Heaven, no one has earned anything, but the gift of eternal life is given freely and equally to all who submit to Christ.

1. The early workers thought they were owed more than the others because they had done more work. Read Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Leviticus 10:1-3. What does God owe us? What other biblical examples can you recall of God's swift judgment?
2. Read Romans 3:23-24 and Romans 6:23. What does God give us? Why does God give us good gifts if he is perfectly just and we are undeserving? How is perfect justice fulfilled?
3. What do we owe God? Read Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:34-39.
4. Why is obedience without joy a problem? Reference Psalm 5:11, John 15:10-11 and Philippians 2:14-15.
5. Why do we need to be humble before God? Read Daniel 4:37 and James 4:6-8. How do you think living in a prosperous first-world nation affects our humility before the creator?
6. What do we owe others, specifically unbelievers? Read Matthew 22:37-40 and Matthew 5:44.

Application: I (John Brewer) gave examples of how I've avoided loving and witnessing to people who are hard for me to love. Consider discussing potential blind spots you might have with your group. How might you be able to change your interaction with those image bearers so that you can be salt and light in their lives?