

Jason Huffman  
Matthew 20  
1/17/24

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What is thought provoking about the parable of the laborers to you and why?
  2. What do you think James and John were thinking? Why? Do we ever think like that too?
  3. Why do unbelievers “lord it over” people? Who is truly “the Lord” over all? How should truth impact the way we live/serve?
  4. How happy do you think the blind men were? Can you relate?
  5. What is something you learned or were reminded of about God from this chapter?
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### **Teaching Notes:**

As we get into chapter 20, we can't forget 19.

19 ended with the rich, young ruler who came to Jesus seeking what he must do to obtain eternal life. He left sorrowful.

The disciples were confused and wondered who could be saved and what they would get as a reward for leaving all and following Jesus.

And Jesus says this... **19:29** And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. **30** But many *who are* first will be last, and the last first.

And now there's a parable to illustrate this idea of the kingdom.

**Parables are puzzling pictures to cause people to think.**

God is the landowner and believers are the laborers.

**20:1** “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. **2** Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. **3** And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, **4** and said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. **5** Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. **6** And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing **a** idle, and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’ **7** They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, **b** and whatever is right you will receive.’

God is looking for laborers.

**8** “So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and give them *their* wages, beginning with the last to the first.’

**9** And when those came who *were hired* about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. **10** But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. **11** And when they had received *it*, they complained against the landowner, **12** saying, 'These last *men* have worked *only* one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.' **13** But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? **14** Take *what is yours* and go your way. I wish to give to this last man *the same* as to you. **15** Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?' **16** So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

What are a few things we can take from this...

1. God's looking for laborers who will do the work of the kingdom.
2. There is work involved in the kingdom.
3. Those who do the work are rewarded.
4. The reward of eternal life is for all who do the work.
5. Those who are first will be last and those last will be first.
6. We should not grumble against God's grace.
7. Grace can reveal the evil/jealousy, self-seeking in our hearts.

**17** Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, **18** "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, **19** and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again."

This is at least the third time Jesus reveals the cross is coming.

**20** Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.

**21** And He said to her, "What do you wish?"

She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."

She does not yet understand grace or the cost of greatness.

**22** But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

They said to Him, "We are able."

Greatness and exaltation comes with a cost in the kingdom.

Jesus humbled Himself to the point of the cross and was exalted.

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it [b]robbery to be equal with God, 7 but [c]made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

23 So He said to them, “You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared by My Father.”

James would be killed as one of the first martyrs in the Church.  
John would be one of the last but persecuted greatly.

24 And when the ten heard *it*, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. 25 But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

*Greek: Diakonos and doulos*

**A ransom was paid for slaves, it was the cost of freedom.**

29 Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. 30 And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!”

31 Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!”

32 So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

33 They said to Him, “Lord, that our eyes may be opened.” 34 So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.

There is a multitude again...thousands following.

Two beggars cry out. He doesn't have to call them, they cry out for mercy.

They cry out Son of David, messianic title of Christ.

The last chapter ended with the sorrow of the rich young ruler.

This chapter ends with the joy and discipleship of two blind beggars.