



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 20:1-16” on April 29th and May 2nd, 2021

CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed from Matthew 19:16-30 affect your week?

DISCOVER: MATTHEW 20:1-16

1. What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?
2. How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
3. Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

MATTHEW 20:1-16 Jesus uses the Parable of the Workers Paid Equally to teach His disciples the way the Kingdom of God operates. From Jesus' teaching in Matthew 19, the disciples now wanted to know, "What do you have for us, Jesus?" Jesus' response was all about the GRACE of God - how He chooses to bless His children on a wide spectrum from those who have known Him and walked with Him for a long time to those who question even being worthy to respond to His invitation for new life in Christ! This brings us to consider, "JESUS, WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR US?"

WHAT WOULD STOP US FROM ASKING THIS QUESTION? Adam gave us two perspectives.

- "I have everything I need, so I don't even THINK about that question." – Do you find yourself living your life with that attitude? Why does that attitude fall short of the reality of our need for what Jesus offers?
- "Jesus wouldn't really want me – not after all the mistakes I've made and all the things I've done wrong." – Do you have internal guilt that is so strong that you think there is no way Jesus would desire to give you anything? Why is that faulty thinking according to Jesus' teaching about the grace of God?

Jesus' telling of this parable teaches us a great deal about what He means when He says in Matthew 19:30: "But many who are first will be last and many who are last will be first." Adam addressed this concept from two perspectives:

- For those who have been laboring and working for Christ for a long time – what temptations war within us and cause us to question God's generosity toward those who are latecomers to His invitation?
- What do those temptations indicate about your focus in life and the condition of your heart?
- For those at the other end of the spectrum – those who feel it is too late for them and that they are unworthy – what encouraging news does this parable bring?
- Whom do you know that needs to hear that it is never too late to accept Jesus' invitation?

TIME FOR A HEART-CHECK:

- How excited are you about people receiving God's grace?
- Can you describe times in your life when you were envious of another's good fortune instead of being thankful for what you have been given? How will you pray about this?
- Can you share a time you received a gift you felt you didn't deserve or gave a gift to someone who felt undeserving? How does that experience relate to Jesus' joy in giving us the gift of eternal life?
- Sometimes we miss the blessing of being a part of the work God has called us to – how can we encourage one another to see the joy in what Jesus has for us, and share about the sovereignty and generosity of God with those around us?

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

Pray for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.