

50+ Ministry

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60+ *Legacies*

Sunday Class

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**All Saints Presbyterian Church
Austin, TX**

Led by Rev. Craig Chapman
cchapman@allsaintsaustin.org

Kingdom Parables

Understanding & Applying

All Saints Presbyterian Church

+ + +

Austin, TX

Summer 2025

Taught by Rev. Craig Chapman

50+60+ Schedule – 2025

Songs of Praise

Prayer & Scripture

“Kingdom Parables”

6/29/25

50+60+ Schedule – 2025

June

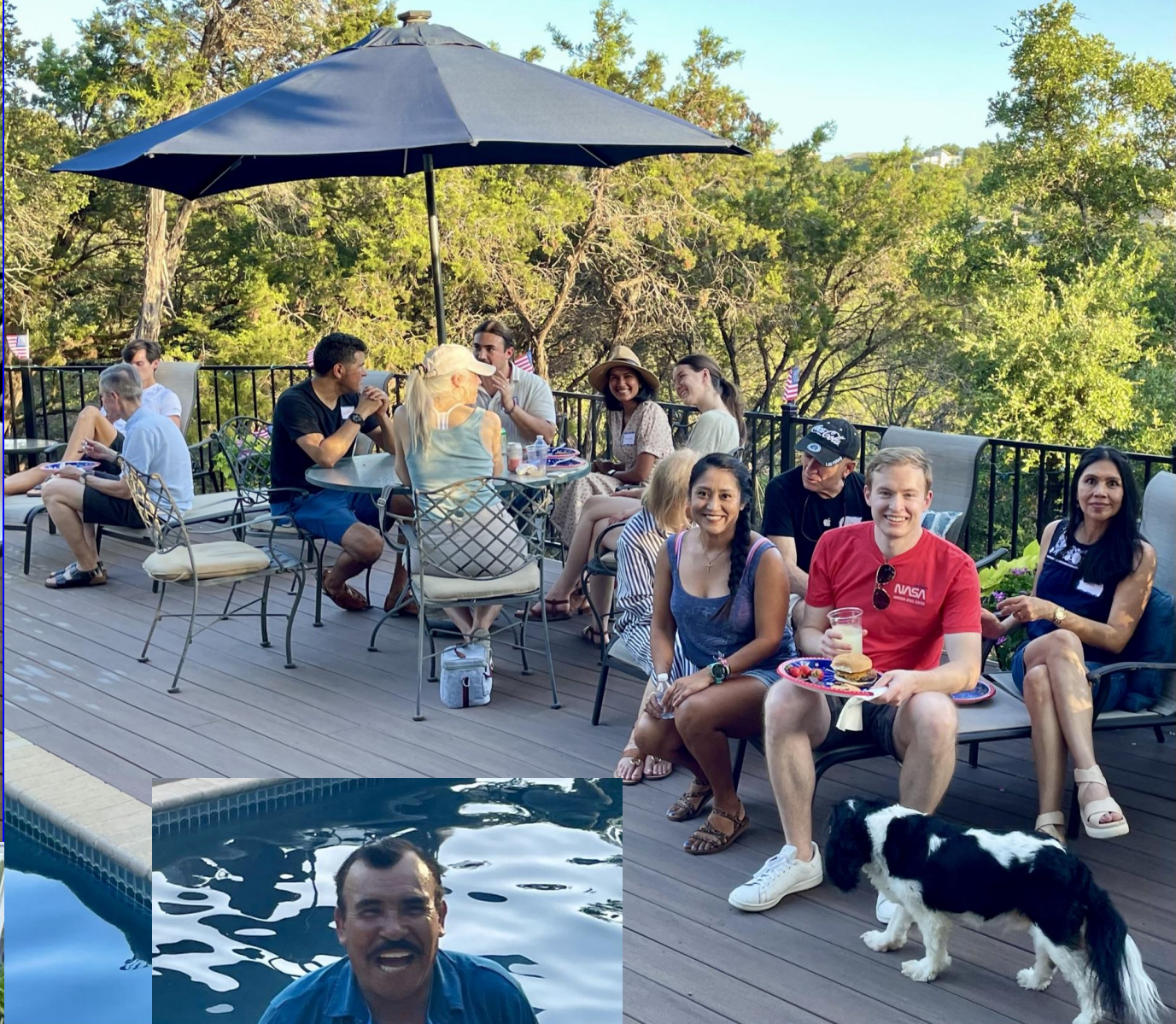
- Sun, 6/29 – **Last Class** until 8/17.

July

- Fri, 7/4 – **Patriotic Pool Party** – 6:00 PM at the Chapmans' home. With Unidos & Young Adults. BYOB + Appetizer or Dessert. Burgers & hot dogs provided. Registration is now open!

August

- Fri, 8/8 – **Dinners for 7+** – 6:30-9:30 PM. Various locations.
- Sun, 8/17 – **Class Resumes** – 10:15 AM in Room 210.



50+60+ Schedule – 2025

September

- Sun, 9/21 – **Fall Kick-off Lunch** – 11:45 AM-2:45 PM, at The Chapmans' home.

October

- Mon, 10/13 – **Supper & Swing Dancing** – 7-9 PM. Big Band Bash at the Lakeway Activity Center. BYOB & Food.

November

- Fri, 11/7 – **Chili Cook-Off** – 6-9 PM at All Saints. BYOB + Chili, Cornbread, &/or Cobbler. Prizes in each category.

December

- Fri, Dec 5 – **Christmas Party** – 6:30-9:30 PM. BYOB + Appetizer or Dessert.

And also with y'all.™

Altar Press Enterprises





ORDINARY TIME

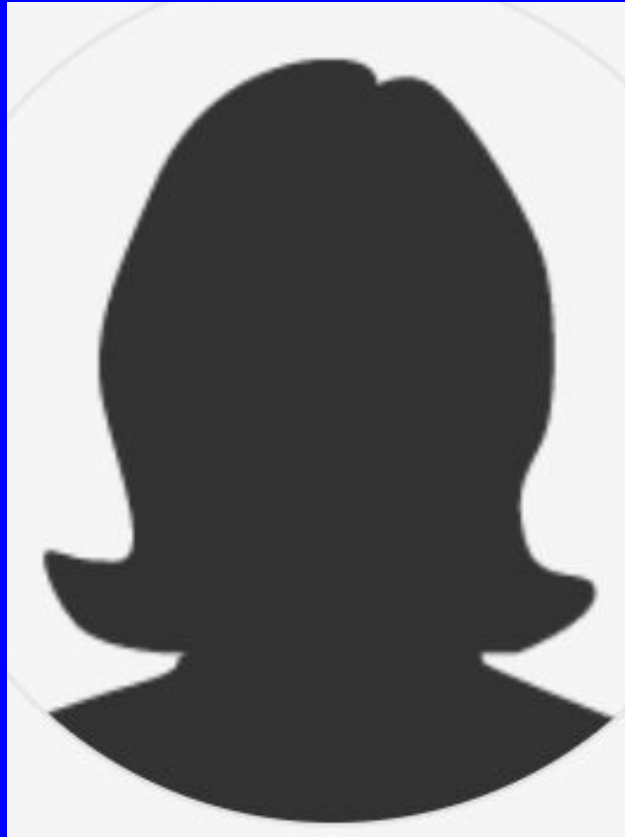
6/29/25

HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD

Adelaide A. Pollard
George C. Stebbins

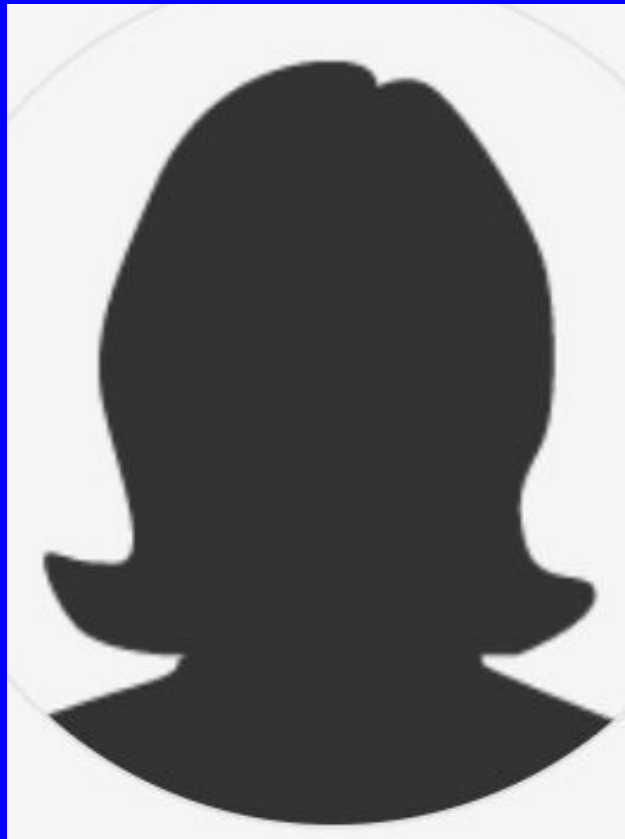
HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD

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HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD

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Jeremiah 18:6

House of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the LORD. ... like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand....

Isaiah 64:8

*O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand*

HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD

Adelaide A. Pollard
George C. Stebbins

Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way.
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way.
Search me and try me, Master, today.
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,
As in Thy presence humbly I bow.

HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD

Adelaide A. Pollard
George C. Stebbins

Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way.
Wounded and weary, help me, I pray.
Power, all power, surely is Thine.
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine.

Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way.
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.
Fill with Thy Spirit 'til all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me.

50+60+ Schedule – 2025

Songs of Praise

Prayer & Scripture

“Kingdom Parables”

6/29/25

Psalm 121:5-8

*The LORD watches over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.*

*The LORD will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.*

(ESV)

New City Catechism

Part 1—God, Creation & Fall, Law

Q6: How can we glorify God?

A6: *We glorify God by enjoying him, loving him, trusting him, and by obeying his will, commands, and law.*

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Q6: How can we glorify God?

A6: *We glorify God by enjoying him, loving him, trusting him, and by obeying his will, commands, and law.*

- Deuteronomy 11:1

You shall therefore love the Lord your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always.

- Richard Sibbes

True freedom is found when by the Spirit the heart is renewed, is enlarged, and becomes subordinate to God in Christ. A man is in a sweet frame when his heart is made subject to God, and drawn out towards him, for the God of all grace sets it at liberty. God will have us make his glory our aim, and then he will bestow grace and glory too upon us. ... There is more mercy in Christ than sin in us.

- 4/6 – Because You Asked #41 – Debts vs. Trespasses
- 4/13 – Because You Asked #42 – Kingdom of God
- 4/20 – Easter (no class)
- 4/27 – Because You Asked #43 – Resurrection & Ascension
- 5/4–New Series: *Kingdom Parables*–Mt 6.25-33—Birds & Lilies
- 5/11 – (Mother's Day) – Guest Teacher: Daniel Pope
- 5/18 – Kingdom Parables - Mt 13.24-43—Wheat, Seed & Leaven
- 5/25 – Memorial Day Weekend (No Class)
- 6/1 – Kingdom Parables - Mt 13.24-43-Wheat,Seed & Leaven 2
- 6/8 – Kingdom Parables-Mt 13.44-50-Treasure, Pearl & Net
- 6/15 – (Craig away) Guest Teacher: Bo White
- 6/22 – Kingdom Parables-Mt 18.23-35-Unforgiving Servant
- **6/29–Kingdom Parables–Mt 20.1-16-Workers in the Vineyard**
(Last 60+ Legacies Class until 8/17)

6/29/25

Kingdom Parables

- **Kingdom of God**

= a realm, not like on earth

= wherever God's light and royal will is reigning

= includes the Church, but it's more

- **Parable**

(Greek: *parabole*)

= compare = metaphor = picture = illustration

= concrete depiction of a cosmic truth

= a story with a symbolic, spiritual meaning



Kingdom Parables

- Jesus says, “... *the kingdom of heaven* is like ...” at least 10 times in Matthew, often when introducing a *parable...*
- 13:24 – ... a man who sowed good seed (Weeds & Wheat)
13:31 – ... a mustard seed ...
13:33 – ... leaven ...
- 13:44 – ... treasure hidden in a field ...
13:45 – ... a merchant seeking fine pearls ...
13:47 – ... a net ...
- 18:23-35 – ...*king settling accounts*
(Unforgiving Servant)



Matthew 18:23-35—The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him **ten thousand talents**. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and **I will pay you everything**.’ And out of pity for him, **the master** of that servant released him and **forgave him the debt**. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him **a hundred denarii**, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and **put him in prison** until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had **mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?**’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not **forgive your brother from your heart**.”

Kingdom Parables

Matthew 18:23-35—



Cultural Context

Lessons

Theological Questions

Kingdom Parables



Cultural Context

- *Talent*
= highest denomination of currency in the ancient Greco-Roman world; also a unit of weight (e.g., silver) ~ 75 pounds
= \$36,000
- *Ten thousand*
= highest named numeral (Greek: *myrioi*; English: 'myriad')
= \$360,000,000
~ trillions of trillions
- *Denarius*
= 1 day's minimum wage
 - \$7.25/hour x 8 hours x 100

Matthew 18:23-35—

... a king's servant ...
owed him *ten thousand talents* ...

... one of his fellow servants ... owed
him *a hundred denarii*

Kingdom Parables



Matthew 18:23-35—

Lessons

- **The King's Gracious Forgiveness**
 - Initial, without request
 - Would be cared for
 - Instead of:
debtor's prison ... execution
 - Servant's Request
 - Q—What does it reveal?
 - King's Response, upon request
- **The Servant's Response to Grace**
 - Q—How do they compare?
 - Q—What does it reveal?

... ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had ...

*... 'Have patience with me, and **I will pay you** everything.'*

*... **the master** of that servant ... **forgave him the debt.***

*...seizing...choking...'Pay what you owe.' ...fellow servant fell down and pleaded...'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and ... **put him in prison** until he should pay the debt.*

Kingdom Parables



Matthew 18:23-35—

Lessons

- **The Fate of the Unforgiving**
 - We face God either as ... Savior ... or ... Judge
 - Mercy misapprehended (missing) from your heart ...
... yields unforgiveness
... brings Judgment
 - Mercy received yields ...
... Mercy given
 - We can never repay our debt of sin

D.A. Carson

Jesus sees no incongruity in the actions of a heavenly Father who forgives so bountifully and punishes so ruthlessly, and neither should we. Indeed, it is precisely because he is a God of such compassion and mercy that he cannot possibly accept as his those devoid of compassion and mercy.

*... ‘You wicked servant! ...
... ‘should not you have had **mercy**
on your fellow servant, as I had
**mercy on you?’ ...
... delivered him to the jailers, until
he should pay all his debt. So also
my heavenly Father will do to every
one of you, if you do not **forgive**
your brother from your heart.”***

Kingdom Parables



Matthew 18:23-35—

Theological Questions

- What kind of Judgment?
 - *Hell* = separation from God
 - Proof-text for Roman Catholic doctrine of *purgatory*

... ‘You wicked servant! ...

... ‘should not you have had *mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?*’ ...

... delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not *forgive your brother from your heart.*”

Kingdom Parables



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Theological Questions

- **Eternal Security?**

- Matthew 6.14-15—if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses
- Matthew 7.21-23—Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Kingdom Parables



Matthew 18:23-35—

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... ‘should not you have had **mercy**
on your fellow servant, as I had
mercy on you?’ ...
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my heavenly Father will do to every
one of you, if you do not **forgive**
your brother from your heart.”

Theological Questions

- **Eternal Security?**
 - 1 John 2.19—*They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.*

Herman Ridderbos

Whoever tries to separate man’s forgiveness from God’s will no longer be able to count on God’s mercy. In so doing he not merely forfeits this, like the servant in the parable. Rather he shows that he never had a part in it. God’s mercy is not something cut and dried that is only received once. It is a persistent power that pervades all of life. If it does not become manifest as such a power, then it was never received at all.

Kingdom Parables



Matthew 18:23-35—

Theological Questions

- **Forgiveness for the Unrepentant?**
(Can I be saved if I refuse to forgive?)
 - Matthew 18:15-17, 21-22—*If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.* ¹⁶ *But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of 2 or 3 witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ... Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as 7 times?” Jesus said... “I do not say to you 7 times, but 77 times.”*
- ... ‘You wicked servant! ...
... ‘should not you have had **mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?**’ ...
... delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not **forgive your brother from your heart.**”

Kingdom Parables



Matthew 18:23-35—

Theological Questions

- **Forgiveness for the Unrepentant?**
(Can I be saved if I refuse to forgive?)
 - Not teach: loss of salvation
 - Does teach: genuine faith in Christ shows itself in transformed living
 - Truly receiving Christ's forgiveness will lead believers to forgive others
 - Refusal to forgive reveals a lack of genuine faith in Christ
 - True Christians never absolutely refuse to forgive another
 - May God guard each of us from ever responding like this servant
 - *Is there someone you need to forgive today? What might it look like?*
- ... 'You wicked servant! ...
... 'should not you have had **mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?**' ...
... delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not **forgive your brother from your heart.**"

Kingdom Parables

- Jesus says, “... *the kingdom of heaven* is like ...” at least 10 times in Matthew, often when introducing a *parable...*
- 20:1-16 –...*a landowner...(Workers in the Vineyard)*
- 22:1-14 – ... *a king giving a wedding banquet ...*
- 25:1-13 – ... *ten virgins ...*
- 25:14-30 – ... *a man going on a journey ... (Talents)*



Matthew 20:1-16—The kingdom of heaven is like a **master of a house** who went out early in the morning to **hire laborers for his vineyard**. After agreeing with the laborers for **a denarius a day**, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the **3rd hour** he saw others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the **6th hour** and the **9th hour**, he did the same. And about the **11th hour** he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the 11th hour came, **each of them received a denarius**. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, 'These last worked only 1 hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you **begrudge my generosity**? So **the last will be first**,

Kingdom Parables

Matthew 20:1-16



Context

Lessons

Questions & Quotes

Kingdom Parables



Context

- Parable: Rich Young Ruler

Matthew 19:16-30

'...what...must I do to have eternal life?' '... sell what you possess and give to the poor...and come, follow me' ... he went away ... 'only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven ... easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle...' 'Who then can be saved?'... Peter...'What then will we have?'...'you who have followed me...will receive 100 fold and... inherit eternal life...many who are first will be last, and the last first.'

Matthew 20:1-16



Kingdom Parables



Context

- Parable: Rich Young Ruler

- Money can be an idol & a spiritual liability

1 Timothy 6.10—*the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil*

Matthew 19:16-30

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Matthew 20:1-16



Kingdom Parables



Context

- Parable: Rich Young Ruler
- Money can be an idol & a spiritual liability
1 Timothy 6.10—*the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil*
- Contrast:
 - Current Evil Age
 - Coming Kingdom of God

Matthew 19:16-30

*'...what...must I do to have eternal life?' '... sell what you possess and give to the poor...and come, follow me' ... he went away ... 'only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven ... easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle...' 'Who then can be saved?'... Peter...'What then will we have?'...'you who have followed me...will receive 100 fold and... inherit eternal life...**many who are first will be last, and the last first.***

Matthew 20:1-16



Kingdom Parables



Context

- Farming / Agriculture

Matthew 20:1-16

A *master*..went out early...to *hire laborers* for his vineyard. ...agreeing...a *denarius a day*...the *3rd hour* ‘...whatever is right I will give you’... *6th* ...*9th hour*...the same...*11th hour* ...idle all day...’You go... too.’ ‘...pay them their wages...the last...to the first.’ ...those hired...the *11th hour*... *received a denarius*. ...those hired first...also received a denarius. ...they grumbled ...’Friend...no wrong. Did you not agree...? ...Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you *begrudge my generosity?*’ So *the last will be first, and the first last.*

Kingdom Parables



Context

- Farming / Agriculture
- Typical work day
 - 6 AM to 6 PM – hot, dusty
 - Wait for hire
 - 1st, 3rd, 6th, 9th & 11th hour = 6, 8 & 11 AM. 2 & 5 PM.

Matthew 20:1-16

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Kingdom Parables



Context

- Farming / Agriculture
- Typical work day
 - 6 AM to 6 PM – hot, dusty
 - Wait for hire
 - 1st, 3rd, 6th, 9th & 11th hour = 6, 8 & 11 AM. 2 & 5 PM.
- Put yourself in the place of:
 - Those hired early
 - Those hired late

Matthew 20:1-16

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Kingdom Parables



Lessons

- NOT: how to run a business
 - Left: need fair labor laws
 - Right: will ruin the labor pool

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Kingdom Parables



Lessons

- NOT: how to run a business
 - Left: need fair labor laws
 - Right: will ruin the labor pool
- God's Kingdom Economy
 - Opposite & upside down
 - Not about rule-keeping
 - Not about what's Fair
 - It's about His Grace & Mercy
 - He's never less than fair
 - He's often radically generous
 - None get less than promised
 - Many get more than deserved

Matthew 20:1-16

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- Who are those hired early? Late?

Matthew 20:1-16

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Kingdom Parables

Diagnostic Questions

Matthew 20:1-16

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Kingdom Parables



Diagnostic Questions

- Do you believe God owes you anything?
- Do you believe you're superior to any other?

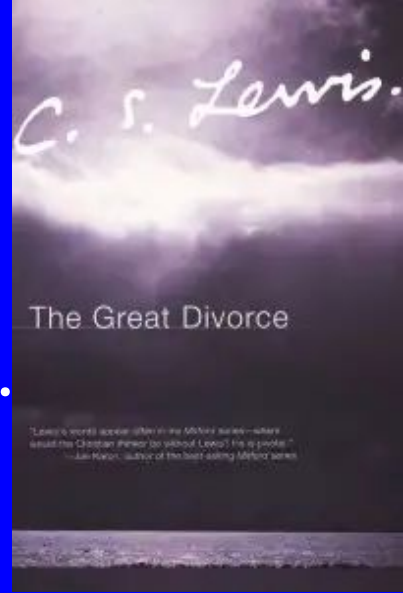
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C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce* (chapter 4)

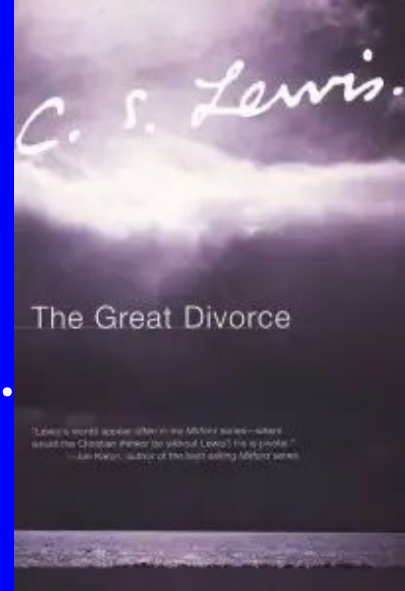
[Below is a dialogue between “*The Big Man*” (a/k/a “*the Ghost*”) and a “*Bright*” or “*Solid Person*” named *Len*—a resident of *High Heaven* assigned to help *The Big Man* learn to walk in that land. On earth, *Len* murdered a man named *Jack*.]

* * * * *



C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce* (chapter 4)

[Below is a dialogue between “*The Big Man*” (a/k/a “*the Ghost*”) and a “*Bright*” or “*Solid Person*” named *Len*—a resident of *High Heaven* assigned to help *The Big Man* learn to walk in that land. On earth, *Len* murdered a man named *Jack*.]



* * * * *

“Well, I’m damned,” said *the Ghost*. “I wouldn’t have believed it. It’s a fair knock-out. It isn’t right, *Len*, you know. What about poor *Jack*, eh? You look pretty pleased with yourself, but what I say is, What about poor *Jack*?”

“He is here,” said the other. “You will meet him soon, if you stay.”

“But you murdered him.”

“Of course I did. It is all right now.”

“All right, is it? All right for you, you mean. But what about the poor chap himself, laying cold and dead?”

“But he isn’t. I have told you, you will meet him soon. He sent you his love.”

“What I’d like to understand,” said *the Ghost*, “is what you’re here for, as pleased as *Punch*, you, a bloody murderer, while I’ve been walking the streets down there and living in a place like a pig sty all these years.”

C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*—(continued)

“That is a little hard to understand at first. But it is all over now. You will be pleased about it presently. Till then there is no need to bother about it.”

“No need to bother about it? Aren’t you ashamed of yourself?”

Not as you mean. I do not look at myself. I have given up myself. I had to, you know, after the murder. That was what it did for me. And that was how everything began.”

“Personally,” said the Big Ghost with an emphasis which contradicted the ordinary meaning of the word, “personally, I’d have thought you and I ought to be the other way round. That’s my personal opinion.”

“Very likely we soon shall be.” said the other. “If you’ll stop thinking about it.”

“Look at me, now,” said the Ghost, slapping its chest (but the slap made no noise). “I gone straight all my life. I don’t say I was a religious man and I don’t say I had no faults, far from it. But I done my best all my life, see? I done my best by everyone, that’s the sort of chap I was. I never asked for anything that wasn’t mine by rights. If I wanted a drink I paid for it and if I took my wages I done my job, see? That’s the sort I was and I don’t care who knows it.”

C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*—(continued)

“It would be much better not to go on about that now.”

“Who’s going on? I’m not arguing. I’m just telling you the sort of chap I was, see? I’m asking for nothing but my rights. You may think you can put me down because you’re dressed up like that [in a fancy robe] (which you weren’t when you worked under me) and I’m only a poor man. But I got to have my rights same as you, see?”

“Oh no. It’s not so bad as that. I haven’t got my rights, or I should not be here. You will not get yours either. You’ll get something far better. Never fear.”

“That’s just what I say. I haven’t got my rights. I always done my best and I never done nothing wrong. And what I don’t see is why I should be put below a bloody murderer like you.”

“Who knows whether you will be? Only be happy and come with me.”

“What do you keep on arguing for? I’m only telling you the sort of chap I am. I only want my rights. I’m not asking for anybody’s bleeding charity.”

“Then do. At once. Ask for the Bleeding Charity. Everything is here for the asking and nothing can be bought.”

Kingdom Parables



Diagnostic Questions

- Does God owe you anything?
- Are you superior to any other?

Matthew 20:1-16

A master...went out early...to hire laborers for his vineyard. ...agreeing...a denarius a day...the 3rd hour '...whatever is right I will give you'... 6th ...9th hour...the same...11th hour ...idle all day...'You go... too.' '...pay them their wages...the last...to the first.' ...those hired...the 11th hour... received a denarius. ...those hired first...also received a denarius. ... they grumbled ...'Friend...no wrong. Did you not agree...? ...Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last.

Kingdom Parables



Diagnostic Questions

- Does God owe you anything?
 - God does not owe us for anything we've done.
 - Danger for Religious People
 - None of us measure up
 - Do you begrudge God's generosity to another?
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- Are you superior to any other?

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 - Do you only want your rights?
- Are you superior to any other?
 - 'I'm not as bad as _____'
 - 'I've always been a Christian'
 - 'I can't believe she's a Christian'
 - What did you contribute to being adopted into God's Kingdom?

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Questions & Quotes

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Harry Blamires

In the Christian life, nothing at all can be purchased at the Do-It-Yourself shop.



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Frederick Dale Brunner

Lasts become firsts in this story, not because they have done enough good works, but because they have a good Lord.



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Kingdom Parables



Quotes

Larry Norman,
In Another Land



I am a servant
getting ready for my part.
There's been a change,
a rearrangement in my heart.
At last I'm learning
there's no returning once I start.
To live is a privilege,
to love is such an art.
But I need your help to start.
Please purify my heart.
I am your servant.

Matthew 20:1-16

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Quotes

Prayer

*Dear Lord,
Help us so to know you
That we may truly love you.
Help us so to love you
That we may fully serve you.
For to serve you is perfect freedom.
Through Jesus Christ we pray.
Amen.*

Matthew 20:1-16

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for his vineyard. ...agreeing...a
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Next Class – August 17, 2025

Prayer

Kingdom Parables – 6/29/25