

GRACE AIN'T FAIR

Guest Speaker Series

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"But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first"
(Matthew 19:30, ESV)

Big idea: Grace isn't earned, measured, and certainly isn't fair – and that's okay.

"For 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 third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 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 sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh 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 eleventh 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." (Matthew 20:1-10, ESV)

Grace starts with God coming to us.

"And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, 'These last worked only one 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, and the first last." (Matthew 20:11-16, ESV)

1. Comparison Will BLIND You from the GENEROSITY of God (v. 11-12).

"But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked." (Psalm 73:2, NIV)

The reward of the Kingdom is GRACE, not HOURLY WAGE.

Where in your life are you keeping score with God?

2. Comparison Replaces GRATITUDE with ENTITLEMENT (v. 9-11)

“... but each one of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house...” (Matthew 20:10b-11, ESV)

GRATITUDE says: “I don’t deserve this, but you are good”.

ENTITLEMENT says: “I was good, so I deserve more”.

3. Comparison Contradicts the GOSPEL we PREACH (v. 15-16)

*“‘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.”
(Matthew 20:15-16, ESV)*

God’s grace isn’t based on MERIT; it’s based on MERCY.

Am I spending more time calculating and COMPARING God’s grace, than I am CELEBRATING it?

Grace ain’t fair – it’s better than fair.

NEXT STEPS

To the Longest Worker:

- Lay down your scorecard & empty your cup
- Identify one 11th hour worker (“too far gone”) and share the Gospel with them.

To the 11th Hour Worker:

- Surrender and fix your eyes on the grace of the Master