

Matthew 20

Jesus

I. Parable of the Workers

- Ch. 19 ended on topic of rewards...

Matthew 19:29 ...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.**

- Reward day at the Bema Seat of Christ...

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is **Jesus Christ**. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be **revealed by fire**; and the **fire will test** each one's work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward.

- **Gold/Silver/Gems** Deeds led by/empowered by Holy Spirit motivated by love
- **Wood/Hay/Straw** Deeds led by/empowered by flesh motivated by pride/self

Each run through the fire of Gods Judgment.
What remains will determine reward

- Chapter 20 continues the topic of **rewards for the believer...**

Matthew 19:30 But many *who are* first will be last, and the last first. [no inspired Ch. Break]

1 "For the kingdom of **heaven is like...**

God's sovereign rule/will/ways over Heaven/Earth looks like this
With regard to eternal rewards for His followers...

1 ...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.

- **Landowner:** God
- **Laborers:** Followers of Christ

1. Goes to Servant Depot early in morning **6am**. Shift ends at 6pm
2. Hires laborers for agreed upon wage; 1 denarius

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.

- Landowner goes back to Servant Depot **9am**
- Hires guys standing around with no agreed upon wage

5 Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise.

- Landowner goes back at **12Noon** Go work. I'll pay you what is right
- Landowner goes back at **3pm** Go work. I'll pay you what is right

6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing 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**, and whatever is right you will receive.'

- Goes back to Servant Depot at **5pm**: Go to work/I will pay you what is right at 6pm

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."

- Everyone received the same. People are mad.

Those who worked harder/longer complained though they received what they **agreed upon**
What's the Point: Point is that God judges the heart; i.e. motives for serving

- Is our work initiated/empowered by the Holy Spirit?
- Is our work motivated/compelled by **our love for God?**

IOW...Do we seek the King or what was on the King's table?

Parable of the Workers is a Litmus test to evaluate our own motives in serving

1. Do we complain in our hearts when we see a death-bed conversion/prison conversion?
2. Do we get upset seeing someone "really evil" get saved and change? Don't deserve it

Do we really think we deserve anything from the Lord?

Luke 17:7 ...which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when

he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'? 8 But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'? 9 Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. 10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.' "

- Jesus agreed give us Eternal Life by His sacrifice
- Anything else is icing on the cake...isn't it?

Entire Bible deals with motives of the Heart
Battle between Flesh/Spirit and Pride/Humility

- No "what about him?" mentality
- **John 20:20** Helps us to see clearly. **Peter told how he will die for Jesus...**

John 20:20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the [John] following...] **21** ...said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" **22** Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? **You follow Me.**"

- **No right to entitlement mentality.**

1. I've been attending this church for _____ years. And?
2. I work/slave in prison ministry. And?
3. I'm out on the mission field while you guys sit around lazy/happy?

- You mean you **get to** go to church, **get to** do prison ministry, **get to** be missionary

1. All our service is already due to God; it belongs to Him.
2. The ability to serve God is the gift of His grace.
3. The call to serve God is the gift of His grace.
4. Every opportunity to serve is a gift of His grace.
5. Being in the right state of mind to do the Lord's work is a gift of grace.
6. Successful service to God is the gift of His grace. [Guzik]

- Do we enjoy seeing others blessed? Or do we envy and complain?

Landowner: Can't I do what I want with my own things?
Is your eye evil because I am good?

- Are you upset because I am good to others? What is that to you? You follow Me.
- If we see God as unfair our eye is evil and we are not seeing clearly

1. Not seeing God for who He is. God. Boss. One in control. Always right.
2. Not seeing ourselves for who we are...recipients of His Grace/Mercy

- **Many are called but few Chosen:**

1. All are called but not all answer the call to Salvation
2. Those answering the call are those God foreknew to be Chosen

John 1:9 Jesus is the Light given to every man. Respond to Light by faith and you are

chosen

1 Timothy 2:4 [God] ...desires all men to be saved/to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- **Few are chosen:** Those that refuse the gift and seek to earn:
 1. Road to hell is broad and crowded with the prideful
 2. Road to heaven is narrow/Those on it humble as demonstrated by service

Jesus driving home the necessity of Humility/Servanthood
Jesus will humble Himself to the point of death on a cross

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

- **Parable of Workers:** Directed to Church Mat 20

The point is that God rewards on the principle of grace, and we should therefore expect surprises. He will never be less than fair, but reserves the right to be more than fair as pleases Him. God's grace always operates righteously. [Guzik]

- **Parable of Vineyard:** Directed to Jews Luke 20

1. Landowner sends servant to His vineyard. Beaten by workers
2. Sends 2 more servants to His Vineyard. Again, beaten by workers...

Luke 20:13 "Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son. Probably they will respect him when they see him.' 14 But when the vinedressers saw him, they reasoned among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.'

- **Interpretation:**

1. God sent His prophets to OT Israel. Jews beat them
2. God decides to send His Son to the Jews. **Brings us to present in text...**

Jesus on His way to Jerusalem for Passover
He will be the Passover Lamb and He tells the boys one more time...

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."

When our Lord told the twelve that he would die, they imagined that it was a parable, concealing some deep mystery. They looked at one another, and they tried to fathom where there was no depth, but where the **truth lay on the surface**. [Spurgeon]

It was no parable or story. It was a harsh reality soon to be fulfilled...

- **Reality was Betrayal** Betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver
- **Reality was Condemnation** False-accusations leading to death sentence

- **Reality was Scourging** Leather whip with glass/lead pulling off flesh
- **Reality was Mocking** Purple robe placed on His torn/bleeding back
- **Reality was Crucifixion** Man's depravity and cruelty on full display

Did they get it this time? Third time?

SUMMARY Parable of the Workers

II. Greatness Is Serving Privilege of Serving

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."

- Jewish mom, sons James/John: AKA **Sons of Thunder**
- **Context:** Jesus just finished pulling the boys aside speaking of His death...

Give my sons a throne...one each side of Your Throne

- How did they become the sons of thunder? Is mom thunder?

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.**"

Matthew 27:35 Then they crucified [Jesus], and divided His garments, casting lots **37** ... And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. 38 Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the **right and another on the left.**

- We are able?

23 So [Jesus] 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." 24 And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers.

- You will both suffer for the sake of the Gospel [not take sin of the world]
- **Baptize:** To immerse
 1. **James:** First martyr among disciples. Herod cut off his head
 2. **John:** Tradition *immersed* in boiling oil? For sure, Banished to Patmos
- **Ten other Apostles mad at two brothers? Everyone was wrong...**
 1. Mom was wrong dragging her boys to Jesus
 2. Boys were wrong hoping she could win them a seat
 3. Ten were wrong because Jesus just said not to envy others

- I'm going to say it again in a different way....

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.**

Same thing? Humble yourselves.

Pride has no place in the Church. Pride has no place in the life a believer

- **Yet, Jesus does not say it is wrong** to desire to be great in the eyes of God

1 Timothy 3:1 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.

- It is not wrong to desire to be great for God/His kingdom
 - ... whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. Want to be great in God's economy? Prove it by willing service to others
- **Minister:** gr. *de-ä'-ko-nos* a servant, attendant

John 13:13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that **you should do as I have done to you.**

27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him **be your slave—**

- Whoever desires to be great? Serve with a willing heart
- Whoever desires to be first? Slave for the sake of others. No regret/Sense Entitlement

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.**"

Isaiah 53:11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

**Jesus a ransom for us: I will pay for your freedom.
I will humble Myself to the point of death.**

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 robbery to be equal with God, 7 but **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, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Humility always precedes Exaltation...Pride always precedes a fall.

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!"

Matthew 9:26 [After Jesus raised the little lamb from dead] ... the report of this went out into all that land. 27 When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "**Son of David, have mercy on us!**" 28 And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." 29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." 30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it." 31 But when they had departed, they **spread the news about Him in all that country.**

- These guys must have heard the news!

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!**"

Luke 19:40 I tell you that if these should keep silent the stones would immediately cry out.

- **Son of David:** Term for Messiah

Matthew 11:4 ... tell John the things which you hear and see: 5 The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

- King takes notice...

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.**

John 12:20 Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. 21 Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "**Sir, we wish to see Jesus.**"

First thing they would ever see was Jesus!

- **What would their new eyes see in the coming week as they followed Him?**
 1. Ride into Jerusalem on a Donkey. People shouting/Excitement in air
 2. Beaten/Crucified on a Cross/Buried. **Afterward might wonder...**

Why did Jesus take the time to stop/heal us when He knew what was awaiting Him?

Why would a King stop to heal a servant?

I did not come to be served, but to serve...and to **give My life a ransom**

John 13:15 ... I have given you an example, that you should **do as I have done to you.**