

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Series: Storyteller
Message Title: The Day Laborers
Speaker: Lance Burch
Date: February 4, 2018

UP NEXT

- **Marriage Conference** (March 3) - Couples both married and engaged will benefit from practical sessions addressing marriage benefits like communication, forgiveness, purity, humility, and making sex mutually fulfilling. Join us for a day that will be a highlight for your marriage! Saturday, March 3rd. (8:00am - 4:00pm) \$55/couple (includes resources, snacks, and evening comedy show). Register at reality.church/events.
- **Comedy Night** (March 3) - Church-wide event at 7:00pm. The belly laughs begin with the comedy team of Barnes & Miner. They've written for/appeared on ESPN, HBO, NBC, FOX, Comedy Central, Jay Leno, Jack Black and more! \$10/ticket - **If you are attending the Married With Benefits Marriage Conference, your tickets for this event are already included in your conference cost.* Register at reality.church/events.

MAIN IDEA

To change from grumbling to gratitude requires a radical change of perspective.

INTRODUCTION

- Bible Chapters can be very helpful. They can also cause us to lose the big picture of what the Bible is teaching in a particular section. Take Matthew 20 for example. It would be easy to assume that Matthew 20 begins unrelated to anything else. After all that is where the chapter begins. Actually, the main message that Matthew 20 illustrates begins in Chapter 19 with Peter's conversation with Jesus.
- Peter the apostle had been shocked at the answer that Jesus had given the rich young man after he had asked the Lord what he still lacked. That got Peter wondering about rewards and what would be a fair reward for his sacrifice of earthly things.
- We learned a few weeks ago from Luke 14 that we cannot follow the King without paying a price. After all, Jesus went to the cross for us. We don't have the right to escape sacrifice and suffering if He did not. In this section of Scripture Jesus explains the rightful demands He makes on those who would call themselves His disciples.
- Here is the larger outline...
 - 1) We must **love** Christ supremely (Matthew 19:16-26)
 - "What good thing must I do, to gain eternal life" (v16-17)
 - "Which commandments?" (v18-19)
 - "What yet do I lack?" (v20-22)
 - "Who then can be saved" (v23-26)
 - 2) We must **obey** Christ unreservedly (Matthew 19:27-20:16)
 - 3) We must **glorify** Christ completely (Matthew 20:17-34)

← We will be focusing here this week.

DISCUSSION

- Who was your best boss, employer or teacher? What made him or her the best in your opinion?
- Have someone read [\(Matthew 20:1-16\)](#)
- Which of the hired men do you most closely identify with, those hired early or those hired late? Why? Do you feel compassion for those hired early?
- Define the term “grace” in your own words. How is it different than “fair”?
- How would you answer the person who says that offering people God’s grace for free makes it cheap? See *1 Peter 1:18-19* for help.
- (Verse 12) Their argument was reasonable from their point of view. When it came time to pay, those who had worked less were made equal to those who had done most of the work. Why do you think it is significant that they complain, “*you made them equal to us,*” and not “*You made us equal to them.*”?
- Do you feel like any injustice occurred in this story? If so where?
 - The fact that the owner chose to be generous with the other workers gave these men no new rights. Their discontent was due to envy, not the overlooking of any of their rights.
- How would you answer the person who says “If I live a good life, I will go to heaven when I die.”
 - The consistent teaching of Scripture is that we are sinners; we all fall short of the standard we ought to have attained, and thus we have no claim of salvation (Romans 3:23). But as in this parable, the workers who came late had no claim on a full day’s wage though they got it, so sinners have no claim on salvation. Salvation is always the work of grace.
- List some specific examples of God’s grace in your life (i.e. gifts).

APPLY IT

- When you view life from a perspective of gratitude, it has the power to change everything else about the way you live.
 - Write it down - Take 30 days and write down the things you are thankful for.
 - Talk about it - Talk it out. No more whining.
 - Pause and Think about it - Look at a sunset. Feel a breeze. Snuggle with your dog. Eat some popcorn)
 - Express it - Find ways to express your gratitude in person.
 - Surround yourself with it - Hang around people who are positive and grateful.
- Focus on Ephesians 2:8-9 this week: “*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.*”