



January 23, 2022

## MAIN SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:1-16

<sup>1</sup>“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>He agreed to pay them a denarius<sup>[a]</sup> for the day and sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup>He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went. He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup>About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ <sup>7</sup>“‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup>When they received it, they grumbled against the landowner. <sup>12</sup>‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ <sup>13</sup>“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’ <sup>14</sup>Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup>Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

## WARM UP

- When you look back over your life, which friends, family members, co-workers, teachers,

etc. would you say were the most generous? In what ways were they generous. Where do you think their generosity flowed from?

- Have each group member look to the person on their left and give them a generous compliment.

(Below you will find the main points of this week’s sermon along with discussion questions. Feel free to use, reword, or omit questions depending on the needs of your group and the time needed for prayer, care, and fellowship. Thank you for your leadership.)

## Thought #1 – A world driven by merit collides with a world driven by grace.

Verses: Matthew 20:1-16, Hebrews 1:2-3

- What was your very first paid job? What did you think about your wage/salary at that time? Did you feel as if you deserved more or less? Why?
- Pastor Kevin told of being disappointed as a child when he did not get rewarded for his good behavior in Sunday School, even though he had been very good. Tell your story. Tell of a time in your life when you felt as if you had earned something that you did not get? What was the situation? How did this make you feel?
- In our world we are taught to work hard and that we earn what we receive, but in God’s Kingdom it’s a different picture: you can’t earn the gift of eternal life, but can only receive it graciously. How does it make you feel knowing that we cannot earn our salvation? What thoughts and feelings surface when you think about the grace of Jesus shows us?

## Thought # 2 – God is always looking to generously include.

Verses: Matthew 20:16, Hebrews 1:2-3

- Do you consider yourself to be someone who is quick to include others? Why do you say this? Who has modeled this habit the most for you?
- In what ways has God pursued you? What are some ways you have experienced the unearned blessings of God?

## Thought #3 – “Grace is not opposed to effort but to earning.” (Dallas Willard)

Verses: Matthew 20:1-16, Hebrews 1:2-3, I John 4:10-11

