

Sermon Notes

Big Idea: Many times when Jesus spoke He told stories. Stories of how to live, how to love, and how to honor God. Let's unpack these simple stories together to discover how to maximize our lives in God's Kingdom.

Parable: A simple story to illustrate how life in God's Kingdom works.

Matthew 20:1-16 [ESV]

What This Parable Reveals About God:

1. God is Outrageously GENEROUS
 2. God is Scandalously GRACEFUL
- The SCANDAL of GRACE is revealed in who's eligible to receive it and the timing of the gift.
 - We COVET God's power to FORGIVE and choose who is forgiven.
 - Covet - the strong desire to TAKE from another person what isn't YOURS.

Application Questions:

1. Have you coveted God's POWER and taken JUDGMENT into your own hands?
2. Do you have any UNFORGIVENESS in your heart that you've been unwilling to let go?
3. Have you become aware of any SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS in your life?
4. Do you feel totally UNWORTHY of God's grace?

The Moral of the Story:

Salvation is based on God's GRACE, not our WORK.

Discussion Questions

- 1) What impacted you the most from this week's message? Encouraged you? Challenged you?
- 2) Read Matthew 20:1-16 [ESV]. Which of the hired men do you most closely identify with, those hired early or those hired late? Why?
- 3) Define the term "grace" in your own words. How is it different than "fair"?
- 4) If God treated us fairly, what would we get from Him? See Romans 3:23 and Ephesians 5:5-6.
- 5) What is required of us to receive God's grace? See John 1:12; 3:16; Acts 16:30-31 and Romans 4:4-5.
- 6) Look back at the Application Questions from the message notes. How did God use those to reveal to you what your next step should be?