Amazing Grace: Week 3 - I Do Not Deserve More - Matthew 20
Slide 1 Amazing Grace logo I DO NOT DESERVE MORE

Slide 2
Matthew 20:1-2

Slide 3
Matthew 20:3-5

Slide 4
Matthew 20:6-7

Slide 5
Matthew 20:8-10

Slide 6
Matthew 20:11-13

Slide 7
Matthew 20:14-16

Slide 8 Amazing Grace: I Do Not Deserve More
Matthew 20:1–16: The Scandal of Grace

God's grace is not determined by what we deserve, but by the generosity of the One who gives it.

Slide 9 The Context: Matthew 19:27–30
Peter's Question: "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" (Matthew 19:27)
Matthew 19:30: "Many who are first will be last, and the last first."
Matthew 20:16: "So the last will be first, and the first last."

The kingdom of God overturns human expectations about status and reward.

Slide 10 Historical Setting: Vineyard Labor in the First Century

Day Laborers: Hired one day at a time, often without guaranteed employment.
Denarius (δηνάριον): Roman silver coin used as the agreed daily wage in Matthew 20:2.
Archaeology: Rock-cut winepresses, agricultural terraces, and grape-processing installations across ancient Israel.
Deuteronomy 24:14–15: Poor laborers were to be paid before sunset.

For vulnerable day laborers, a day's wages could determine whether their families had enough to eat.

Slide 11 The Workers of the Eleventh Hour

Third Hour: Approximately 9:00 AM.
Sixth Hour: Approximately Noon.
Ninth Hour: Approximately 3:00 PM.
Eleventh Hour: Approximately 5:00 PM.
Matthew 20:7: "Because no one has hired us."
Historical Context: Day laborers depended on being selected for work, often without guaranteed income.

The landowner extends an opportunity to those who have been waiting all day.

Slide 12 The Great Reversal

Matthew 20:8: "Beginning with the last, up to the first."
Matthew 20:9: The last workers receive a denarius.
Matthew 20:10: The first workers also receive a denarius.
The Surprise: Those who worked approximately one hour received the same payment as those who worked throughout the day.

The scandal is not that the first workers received too little, but that the last workers received so much.

Slide 13 Justice, Grace, and the Evil Eye

Matthew 20:13: "Friend, I am doing you no wrong."
Greek: Ophthalmos Ponēros (ὀφθαλμὸς πονηρός): Literally, "evil eye," expressing envy or resentment.
Greek: Agathos (ἀγαθός): Good, generous, beneficent.
Matthew 20:15: "Or do you begrudge my generosity?"

God's generosity does not violate His justice, but it can expose the envy within our hearts.

Slide 14 The First and the Last

Matthew 19:30: "Many who are first will be last."
Matthew 20:16: "So the last will be first, and the first last."
Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

We do not stand before God on the basis of our spiritual achievements.

Slide 15 The Greatest Expression of Grace

Ephesians 2:8–9: Saved by grace through faith, not a result of works.
Romans 5:8: Christ died for us while we were still sinners.
2 Corinthians 5:21: Christ bears our sin so that we may become God's righteousness in Him.

Grace costs us nothing to earn, but it cost Christ His life.

Slide 16 Living as People of Grace

Grace produces humility rather than superiority.
Grace creates gratitude rather than entitlement.
Grace welcomes people rather than ranking them.
Grace reminds us that Christ is our common foundation.

Slide 17 I Do Not Deserve More

God is always just.
God is abundantly generous.
Salvation is a gift, not a wage.
The cross is the ultimate expression of grace.

I do not deserve more, but in Christ I have received more than I could ever earn.