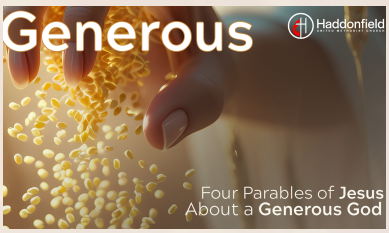
Haddonfield
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connect Guide

Fair

Week of Sunday, November 8, 2026

All original content by Rev. Yeeun Kim unless noted.



Matthew 20:1-16 (NRSV)

1"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. 3When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; 4and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. 5When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 6And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' 7They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' 8When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' 9When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. 10Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. 11And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 12saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' 13But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? 14Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. 15Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' 16So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Opening

1. **Pray:** Generous God, thank you for gathering us around your Word. Give us eyes of gratitude, not eyes of comparison. Open our hearts to hear how you go out again and again to find us, and teach us to share the grace you have already placed in our hands. Amen.

2. **Share:** Think of a time, as a child or as an adult, when you said (or quietly thought), "That's not fair!" What was it about, and what did it feel like?

Dive Into the Text

A little background

- *A denarius, "the usual daily wage" (20:2), was about what a family needed to eat for one day.*
- *The people waiting in the marketplace were day laborers. If no one hired them, their families might not have enough to eat.*
- *The law asked employers to pay poor workers before sunset, not the next morning (Leviticus 19:13).*

1. Jesus tells this parable right after Peter asks, "What then will we have?" (19:27). How does Peter's question help us understand why Jesus tells this story? Have you ever asked God something similar?

2. The landowner goes out at six, nine, noon, three, and five o'clock, and the last workers say, "Because no one has hired us" (20:1-7). He did not have to keep going back. What does his going out again tell us about God, and about the people still waiting?

3. The first workers received exactly the usual daily wage they agreed to (20:13). They lost nothing. Why do you think they were still upset? What changed in them?

Dive Into the Text questions continue on page 2.

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Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (NRSV)

1 “When you have come into the land that the Lord
your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess
and you possess it and settle in it, 2 you shall take
some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which
you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is
giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go
to the place that the Lord your God will choose as
a dwelling for his name. 3 You shall go to the priest
who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I
declare to the Lord your God that I have come into
the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to
give us.’ 4 When the priest takes the basket from
your hand and sets it down before the altar of the
Lord your God, 5 you shall make this response
before the Lord your God: ‘A wandering Aramean
was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and
lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he
became a great nation, mighty and populous.
6 When the Egyptians treated us harshly and
afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, 7 we
cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the
Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our
toil, and our oppression. 8 The Lord brought us out
of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched
arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with
signs and wonders; 9 and he brought us into this
place and gave us this land, a land flowing with
milk and honey. 10 So now I bring the first of the fruit
of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.’ You
shall set it down before the Lord your God and
bow down before the Lord your God. 11 Then you,
together with the Levites and the aliens who reside
among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that
the Lord your God has given to you and to your
house.

Dive Into the Text

4. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, "If your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light" (6:22), right between teaching about treasure and money (6:19-24). Read that alongside 20:15. What does the way we see others have to do with how generously we live?

5. In the sermon, we heard "Grief is not envy." Crying out to God, "Why not me?" is not an evil eye. How can we be honest with God about our pain without letting it turn into resentment toward others?

Go Deeper

Read Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (left).

1. Notice that the offering begins with remembering (26:5-9). How does remembering what God has already done for you change the way you give?

2. What is the difference between giving our first fruits and giving what is left over? What might "first" look like for you with your time, your money, or your gifts? As we prepare for Commitment Sunday on November 22, which practice from Sunday (Celebrate Grace, Don't Compare; Give First, Not Just What's Left; Go Out Again) will you try this week?

3. The first fruits ended in a celebration shared with the Levites and the aliens who lived among them (26:11). How does that connect with Sunday's message, "Grace given to someone else does not make your grace smaller"? Who could you invite to share in God's goodness this week?

Close in Prayer

Close your time in prayer together. Give thanks for the gifts you did not earn, and ask God for eyes that celebrate the grace given to others.