

Sermon Discussion Guide

11.28.23 Message | Scott Bates | Matthew 20:14-16

Key Scripture:

“Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity? So the last will be first, and the first last.”

- Matthew 20:14-16

Message Highlights:

- Status, wealth, power, fame, and fairness are not where true Kingdom greatness comes from. True Kingdom greatness comes from sacrifice, humility, grace, mercy, service and generosity.
 - The rules of the Kingdom of God are reversed from what we would expect. While the world praises wealth and power, God values grace and sacrifice.
 - Those who have been Christians for a long time need to keep in mind that grace is not something we deserve or earn.
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CONVERSATION STARTER

- Was there ever a time when you sought after greatness? What did you pursue? Did you succeed, and how did this affect your life?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

- How has the Spirit spoken to you through this section of God’s word?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

- What is the overall purpose of this text?
- How does the landowner's response challenge conventional notions of fairness, and what does it reveal about the generous nature of God?
- In what ways does this parable illustrate God's sovereignty in determining how he distributes his grace and blessings?
- In what ways does this parable reflect the theological concept of salvation by grace rather than by works? How does it challenge human notions of earning God's favor?

THINK LIFE CHANGE (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

- How does viewing the world through a worldly greatness mentality conflict with what Jesus says in this passage?
- How can one align their life values to prioritize Kingdom greatness over worldly greatness?
- How can you evaluate your life and tell whether or not you think of your salvation as something you earned or deserved?

THINK ENGAGE (Does your group recognize the communal implications for us as a Gospel-centered community?)

- How does living for self-first impact the community of Christ? How does living sacrificially impact the community of Christ?
- What can you do to demonstrate a Kingdom mindset to others?

THINK EXPAND (Does your group recognize the missional implications for those we want to reach for Christ?)

- According to this passage, how are we to approach being missional in everyday life?
 - How does this look in light of obedience?
 - How does this look in light of a deeper trust?
 - How does this look in light of sacrifice?
- What characteristics do you gain when you chase worldly greatness rather than Kingdom greatness?
- How can our search for Kingdom greatness positively affect those around us?

THINK KINGDOM (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

- How do the values of the Kingdom (that treasures we gain on earth through living like Jesus build up treasures in heaven) reflect Jesus's description of greatness?
- What can you do to cultivate a Kingdom-minded lifestyle?
- How does it challenge us to think beyond our day-to-day living and selfish pursuits?