

TAKE HOME SHEET



Series: The Conversationalist
Message: God's Unfair Economy
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: March 5, 2023

Read the parable (out loud if possible) and afterward answer these questions:

If you were in the crowd when Jesus told this story, what questions do you think you would have had?

Of the five groups who were hired, is there one group you identify with? Why or why not?

Jesus didn't intend this story to be a guide for employers, but to illustrate God's mercy and kindness. In your own words, how would you describe God's heart for people?

The Pharisees prided themselves on their strict adherence to the Old Testament rules and regulations. They looked down on those God had mercy on who hadn't lived a "religious life" as they did. Their disgust fueled their desire to kill Jesus.

Do you see some contemporary examples of the Pharisee's attitude today?

How can we avoid falling into the same trap?

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NASB – New American Standard Bible
NLT – New Living Translation

MESSAGE NOTES



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¹ For the Kingdom of Heaven is like the landowner who went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ² He agreed to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work.

³ At nine o'clock in the morning he was passing through the marketplace and saw some people standing around doing nothing. ⁴ So he hired them, telling them he would pay them whatever was right at the end of the day. ⁵ So they went to work in the vineyard. At noon and again at three o'clock he did the same thing.

⁶ At five o'clock that afternoon he was in town again and saw some more people standing around. He asked them, 'Why haven't you been working today?'

⁷ They replied, 'Because no one hired us.' The landowner told them, 'Then go out and join the others in my vineyard.'

⁸ That evening he told the foreman to call the workers in and pay them, beginning with the last workers first. ⁹ When those hired at five o'clock were paid, each received a full day's wage.

¹⁰ When those hired first came to get their pay, they assumed they would receive more. But they, too, were paid a day's wage. ¹¹ When they received their pay, they protested to the owner,

¹² 'Those people worked only one hour, and yet

you've paid them just as much as you paid us who worked all day in the scorching heat.'

¹³ He answered one of them, 'Friend, I haven't been unfair! Didn't you agree to work all day for the usual wage? ¹⁴ Take your money and go. I wanted to pay this last worker the same as you. ¹⁵ Is it against the law for me to do what I want with my money? Should you be jealous because I am kind to others?'

¹⁶ So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last.

Matthew 20:1-16 (NLT)

Our Father is a God of incomparable grace.

⁸ God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

Our Father is a God of incomparable compassion.

²² The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; ²³ Great is Thy faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23 (NASB)

Our Father is a God of incomparable generosity.

⁷ He is so rich in kindness that he purchased our freedom through the blood of his Son, and our sins are forgiven. ⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

Ephesians 1:7-8 (NLT)

Following His example is the "Thank You" He deserves and expects.

¹ Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. ² Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NLT)