



## Weekend Worship

On Sunday, we focused on the story Jesus told about “The Workers in the Vineyard” in Matthew 19:27-20:16. If you haven’t had a chance to hear a sermon on this section, go on our website and listen to the message on July 19 on Matthew 19:27-20:16.

### Matthew 19:27-20:16 (NIV)

Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”

<sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. <sup>30</sup> But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

**20:1** “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

<sup>3</sup> “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup> He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ <sup>5</sup> So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup> About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

<sup>7</sup> “ ‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

<sup>8</sup> “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

<sup>9</sup> “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius.

<sup>11</sup> When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. <sup>12</sup> ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

<sup>13</sup> “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’

<sup>14</sup> Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup> Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

<sup>16</sup> “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” <sup>1</sup>

## a special flavor of pride

There are many different “flavors” of pride. Some are rooted in who you are, your lineage, your accomplishments, et cetera. The specific flavor of pride we’ll look at today is pride when comparing myself with others.

- 1) How does Jesus warn against pride in this story?
- 2) I people most often compare myself with are: \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) The area(s) of life I do this most often are (work, social, etc): \_\_\_\_\_.

Whether we compare favorably or poorly with others, this type of pride is hurtful.

- 4) What particular dangers do you see in this “flavor” of pride (to yourself, to others)?
- 5) How does it dishonor God?

## GRACE is more powerful than generosity

Grace: “God’s unconditional, unearned, undeserved love for us in Christ.”

- 1) How is God’s GRACE different from simple generosity? How is it better?
- 2) How is God’s grace and “the kingdom of heaven” (God’s gracious and powerful rule in hearts) different than this world or how we might normally think things are or should be?
- 3) Give specific examples of God’s grace to you.
  - ⇒
  - ⇒
  - ⇒
  - ⇒
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- 4) Jesus teaches us not only about how the kingdom of heaven is, but also who we are. According to Jesus in this section, I am \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) What we do does not “earn” God’s grace, but God’s grace motivates and empowers our work. Describe why that’s such a key fact in your life of faith.
- 6) If you look at this section as another mini-conversation with Jesus, with what do you walk away from it? (what did you learn about Jesus? About the kingdom of heaven? About you? How does this make you feel?)

⇒ Based on what God’s taught you in Matthew 19:27-20:16, what should YOU:

DO? (and NOT DO?)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

PRAY?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

## Prayer

Dear Jesus, lurking in my heart is a sinful nature that puffs myself up in pride. In your grace, forgive my sinful pride. Purge this pride from my heart and give me an undivided heart – a heart that trusts you solely, loves you deeply, and serves you always. In your name, Jesus, I pray. Amen.