

Message Notes

Parable of the Gracious Landowner
Matthew 19:27-20:16
Gospel of Matthew, Part 67
March 12, 2006

Message Outline

Parable of the Gracious Landowner
Matthew 19:27-20:16
Gospel of Matthew, Part 67
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I. Seeking Grace

- A. The conditions of the work. . .
- B. The laborers who do the work. . .
- C. The landowner who provides the work. . . .

II. Sovereign Grace

- A. God is INDEPENDENT in the exercise of His grace: *Is your eye envious because I am generous? (20:15)*
- B. God is FREE in the exercise of His grace: *Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what it is my own? (20:15)*
- C. God is JUST in the exercise of His grace: *Did you not agree with me for a denarius? (20:13)*

III. Inexplicable Grace

- A. We are all eleventh hour workers. . . .
- B. We can either. . . .

*demand our wages and go our way,
cutting ourselves off from the fellowship of God*

OR

*humbly receive what God has chosen to give us,
believing He knows what is best for us*

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Matthew 19:27-20:16 again. Why does Jesus tell this parable? What question does Peter ask in 19:27? How does the parable relate to Peter's question?
2. What was the length of the typical work day of the period when Jesus tells this parable? How do we know based on the text? What is the landowner's compensation agreement with the first workers? How about with the rest of the workers?
3. How does this parable demonstrate the "seeking" nature of God's grace?
4. Why does the landowner pay the last laborers first? What is really behind the first laborer's grumbling? How do we know based on the text? Verse?
5. How does this text teach us about the "sovereign" nature of God's grace in the three questions the landowner asks the first workers in 20:13-15?
6. Using the parable as a reference point, explain how the exercise of God's grace is independent from anything in us. Explain how the exercise of God's grace is FREE as the Owner of all. Explain how God's grace is also just.

Growth Group Application Questions

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Gospel of Matthew, Part 67

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1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. What is "common grace?" What are some examples of common grace shown to all humankind? Explain how we are all recipients of God's grace.
3. Give some examples of God's sovereign grace operating in the world today. Why do some have more apparent blessings in this life than others? How has God shown His sovereign grace in your life and experience?
4. Why are we prone to grumble just like the first laborers? How do we avoid it? Why is God's sovereign grace so difficult for us to come to grips with?
5. Explain the relationship between grace and justice? Is God gracious or just? Is God's grace opposed to justice? Why should our hearts not cry out for justice? How are God's justice and grace shown at the cross?
6. Explain and discuss this statement: *We can either demand our wages and go our way, cutting ourselves off from the fellowship of God; OR we can humbly receive what God has chosen to give us, believing He knows what is best for us*