

The Gospel of Matthew #104

ONE HOUR WORKERS

Matthew 19:16 – 20:16

20:1-16 is a fascinating parable that exposes our hearts and faulty thinking
It is enclosed in a frame (19:30 and 20:16) that says that the Day of Judgment is going to be full of **surprises!**

I. The **Prompt** (19:16-29)

- A. The rich young ruler: expected a reward for his honorable life
Disappointed in Jesus
- B. Peter: we *have* left all. So what do we get? Expects reward for his sacrifice

Jesus' response:

- 1. Promise: you will NOT be disappointed!
God's **generosity**
- 2. You are misunderstanding God's heart
God's **grace**

II. The **Parable** (19:30 – 20:16)

Laborers hired at 6am, 9am, 12noon, 3pm, 5pm.
Then he pays them at 6pm—all the same!
Those who worked all day are indignant that those who worked only one hour got the same pay as them!

The master rebukes them on 3 counts:

- 1. I paid you exactly what you agreed to. That is fair.
- 2. I have a right to do what I want with my money when I am more than fair.
- 3. You are envious because I am more generous with others.
That is *your* problem.

III. The **Point** (20:9-16)

- A. You _____
Grace should always be amazing
- B. You identify with the wrong people
We are all the _____ workers!
The master did not hire the one hour workers for what he could get out of them, but because they needed what he could give them. For *their* sake.
So Jesus died for you for *your* sake.
All disciples receive infinitely more than we deserve
- C. What cause do you have to grumble at God's ways?
Has He not given you infinitely better than you deserve?

Beware of ways you think He "owes you"
 - Why am I suffering when I tried to be faithful?
 - Why has He blessed this other person more than me?
Luke 4:25-27: Elisha and Gentile woman, Naaman the Syrian leper
 - He does not owe *anyone* salvation The Q about the Lost is not: how can God be loving and _____ anyone, but rather: how can God be just and _____ anyone??

The cross is pure grace.

There will be lots of surprises on the Day of Judgment (19:30; 20:16)
There will also be an overwhelming sense of His superabundantly generous grace! 19:29 promises 10,000% return on the investment of your life for Him!