

SERMON OUTLINE

March 21, 2021

The Unfair Generosity of God

Matthew 20:1-16

- I The Laborers
 - A. Their Unconventional Compensation
 - B. The Case for a Complaint
 - C. The Cause for a Celebration

- II The Landowner
 - A. His Lopsided Pay Scale
 - B. His Logic Explained

- III. The Lesson
 - A. Our Naturally Clouded Thinking
 - B. Our Need for Correct Thinking

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 21, 2021

Passage: Matthew 20:1-16

Memory Passage: Matthew 20:16

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matthew 20:1-16.** In order to properly understand this parable, we need to view it in its proper context. **Read Matthew 19:16-30.** How does this parable relate to Jesus' conversation with the rich young ruler in verses 16-22?
- (b) What is the answer that Jesus gives to Peter's question in 19:27?
- (c) How does verse 30 of chapter 19, and verse 16 of chapter 20 help us to understand the point of the parable?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matthew 20:1-16.** How many groups of workers does the landowner hire during the day?
- (b) What are the differences in agreement between the landowner and the various groups of workers regarding compensation for their labors?
- (c) How does the landowner defend his actions when paying the workers?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matthew 20:1-16.** Put yourself in the place of the first group of workers who were hired early in the morning. Did they have a valid complaint? How would you feel if you were in their shoes?
- (b) Now put yourself in the place of the workers who were hired near the end of the day. How would you feel if you were in their shoes?
- (c) What if you were in the position of the landowner? What would be your personal feelings about paying those who worked all day the same amount as those who had labored for only an hour?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matthew 20:1-16.** In the parable, who does the landowner represent? How did you come to your conclusion?
- (b) Who is/are represented by the workers? How do the different groups of workers (i.e. those that were hired at different times of the day) affect your answer?

(c) What lesson is this parable intended to teach us? Explain your answer.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Matthew 20:1-16.** Does God intend that everyone should be treated with equality? Does He himself treat everyone equally? Explain your answer.

(b) Is it always possible to be “fair” and “generous” at the same time? Explain.

(c) How should we respond when we encounter situations in life where we feel that we are being unfairly treated?

(d) How should we respond when we see others being unfairly treated?

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