

### ***The Church's Call to Humble Service (Matthew 19:30-20:28)***

*Jesus takes the disciples down into the valley to teach them that the way up is down.*

#### **I. Introduction: Ezekiel 18:25 – Israel's sin of accusing God of injustice**

Matthew 19:30 and 20:16 form an *inclusion* which links the parable of the workers to the story of the rich young ruler, as well as a segue to the teaching on humble service later in the chapter

#### **II. Pride vs. Grace: The parable of the laborers in the vineyard (1-16)**

##### **A. The detail of the story**

The landlord calls laborers to work in his vineyard for a fair wage  
The laborers who worked harder feel cheated even though they received their wage  
The landlord justifies his action as owner of the vineyard

Romans 9 – The unfairness of grace

##### **B. Warnings to "Firsts"**

"Lasts" become first, by grace; "firsts" become last by pride

He must increase, I must decrease (1 Peter 5:6, 1 Cor 4:7)

#### **III. Glory vs. Suffering: Jesus' third passion prediction (17-19)**

A. Suffering precedes glory – humiliation before exaltation

B. A call to humble yourself, take up a cross, and receive Christ

#### **IV. Ambition vs. Humility: Jesus teaches the disciples that the way up is down (20-28)**

A. The Zebedees try to climb glory mountain

Refined pride becomes ambition

B. Jesus' patient reply – the humanity of Christ

C. The other ten disciples become indignant

Disappointed pride becomes bitterness

D. Jesus' teaching on the way to greatness by being a servant

#### **V. A Counter-cultural call to the church to serve one another**

Philippians 2:2-11