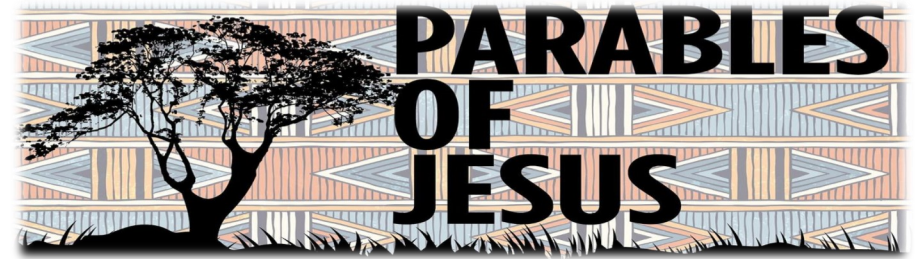


**Reflection Questions:** Where am I in this parable? Why? Are there any types of people I think God shouldn't show mercy toward? Why? Am I aware of my neediness before God or does that rarely cross my mind? Why do I serve the Lord? Why should I serve the Lord? Is there any reason for me to complain about what the eternally holy, righteous God does?

How can we pray for one another this week?



Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard  
Matthew 19:16-20:16

*Sermon*  
Notes

June 21, 2020

### Quotes to Ponder

*The sovereignty of God exhibited in this parable, is a sovereignty that inflicts no wrong on any of His creatures. It is merciful to all, though especially merciful to some.*

Jabez Burns

*God's sovereign principle for salvation is that every person who comes in faith to His Son, Jesus Christ, receives the same gracious salvation prepared by the Father and given by the Son.*

John MacArthur

*The first workers murmured not because the lord had deprived them, but because he had been so merciful to others.*

Neil R. Lightfoot

*When we read that God is good, it does not ordinarily refer to God's holiness and perfection but to the fact that He is full of mercy and loving-kindness.*

R.C. McQuilkin

*The system of law is easy to figure out: You get what you deserve. The system of grace is foreign to us: God deals with us according to who He is, not according to who we are.*

David Guzik

*At the spiritual level, no one should ever ask God to be fair, for that is an implicit request for damnation. One should always desire grace!*

Michael P. Knowles

*God's generosity transcends human ideas of fairness. No-one receives less than they deserve, but some receive far more.*

R. T. France

*To think that we have to go out and do this in order for God to do that, reflects the fact that we think that God is stingy with His blessings.*

Ligon Duncan

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convinced you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?

2. Read *Matthew 20:1-16*. What is *the kingdom of heaven* like in light of this parable?

3. What was the landowner's agreement with the various groups he hired?

4. What does the landowner pay the various groups? Why?

Why does he pay those who were hired later the same as those who were hired at the start of the day?

Why shouldn't those who worked longer be paid more?

5. What is Jesus' point in telling this parable (*Matthew 20:1-16*)?

6. According to the context of this parable, why is Jesus telling it?

7. On what basis are the workers in this parable paid for their labor?

8. Why did those who only worked for an hour receive as much as those

who worked all day? Was the owner unjust?

9. Why are the workers hired first angry at receiving what they agreed to?

10. Why do we tend to be so concerned about fairness that we become jealous when God is generous to someone else?

11. What would happen if God treated all humans as we truly deserve?

12. Why are all people undeserving of God's favor and worthy of only damnation?

13. What does Jesus mean in *Matthew 19:30* and *20:16*? How does the parable He tells between these two statements make His point?

14. What can we learn about God from His decision to bless the first and last equally?

15. How should we view ourselves as members of the kingdom of heaven? How do we compare to others, and what should be our approach to life?

16. What is the only way to enter the kingdom of heaven? Use Scripture to back up your answer.