The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

Matthew 20:1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. [2] He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.[3] "About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. [4] He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' [5] So they went. "He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. [6] About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' [7] "'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' [8] "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' [9] "The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. [10] So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. [11] When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. [12] 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' [13] "But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? [14] Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. [15] Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' [16] "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The development of the story:

Early morning – 6am
Third hour – 9am
Sixth hour – Noon
Ninth hour - 3pm
Eleventh hour – 5pm

Problem: All get paid the same

The full day workers have a good point. They really have worked harder than the other workers. On the surface, this just doesn't seem fair.

Point of the Parable:

God's _____ exceeds our sense of _____.

If God were only _____ we would not have _____.

You can think of God's grace in this way:

G
R
A
C
E

Psalm 103:10
He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

2Corinthians 8:9
For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich,
yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.