Kingdom-Minded
Generosity
Sunday, June 1, 2025

Matthew 20:1-16 NIV

"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."

1. **God's Sovereign Authority.**

2. **Rejoice in 11th Hour Salvations.**

3. **Emulate God's Extravagant Grace.**

Conclusion: God is sovereign in all, even in His generosity. How God rewards others should be of no consequence to us nor affect our devotion to Him. His grace is sufficient so let us rejoice that the same gift of eternal life is given to all who receive the invitation, no matter the hour.

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Generosity
Week of June 1, 2025- June 7, 2025

Ice Breaker: Would you rather have a kingdom that rewards on merit or one that offers rewards through grace?

Read Matthew 20:1-16.

1. What example is Jesus offering about what Heaven is like? (v.1)
2. Who is the landowner? Who are the workers? What is the vineyard?
3. What did the landowner agree to pay the workers? (v.2) Was this a good wage? Was there generosity in this offer?
4. Where were the people who were not working? What were they doing? (v.3) How does this relate to how we live apart from Christ?
5. What did the landowner offer those standing around? (v.4)
6. How many times did the landowner go out to see who might be idle?
7. Why would he go out so many times, even late in the afternoon?
8. How does this relate to God inviting us into the Body?
9. How did they respond when he asked at 5 pm why they were still standing around? (v.7) What does that tell you about the importance of sharing the Gospel message and inviting others to church?
10. When it came time to pay the workers, who did he start with? (v.8) Why?
11. What did the owner pay the last workers? (v.9) Why?
12. What did the first workers assume when seeing how the owner paid the last hired workers? (v.10) Would you assume this also? Why?
13. How did the first workers' attitude shift from the original agreement to time of payment? (v.11)
14. What was their issue? (v.12) Have you felt like this before? Why? What type of thinking leads to this change in attitude?
15. Have you felt like this with someone who accepted Jesus late in life or after living in rebellious sin-*to be given the same reward*? Why?
16. Who among Jesus' time acted like these first workers? Who was Jesus calling out in telling this parable? Read Luke 15:7. Matthew 8:11.
17. What did the owner ask the workers? (v.13)
18. What do we see in the owner's heart? (vs. 14-15) Is this unfair?
19. Read Romans 9:15-16. What do we see about God's sovereignty?
20. What is meant by v.16 in the kingdom of Heaven?

Point to ponder: Let us give thanks for God's extravagant grace and diligence to look for idle souls to serve in His Kingdom. His invitation is for all who will come. Let us rejoice in those who do!