

KINGDOM

SERMON SERIES

STUDY NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Generosity in the Kingdom

1 Who is the most grateful or thankful person you met? Why do you think they were so grateful and thankful?

2 Describe the difference between gratefulness and entitlement? Why is entitlement such a gratitude killer?

3 Read Matthew 19:30 - 20:16. Why do you think the landowner keeps going back? Even with one hour left when the worker would get nearly nothing done? What might this say about the character of the landowner?

4 Why would the landowner offer then worker work, rather than just a handout? What does this say about our responsibility and dignity? Where have you seen handouts be detrimental?

5 Read Matthew 20:10-11. What had happened in the hearts and minds of those hired first? How did it affect them? How has entitlement snuck in?

6 Read Matthew 20:12. Why were the workers upset? Why would making someone equal (lifting others up) be so offensive?

7 In what areas are you tempted to feel entitled? How can we become entitled to things from God?

8 Seeing our work, service, ministry, devotion to Jesus as merit can lead us to think God is unfair when he has blessed others we think are further behind. In what ways have you experienced or are experiencing this?

9 Gratitude is connected to grace (unmerited favor). How grateful are you in life? Would others describe you as grateful? If our gratefulness is a response to God's generous grace, how could you grow in gratefulness to others, bringing the Kingdom of God (of gratefulness) to your relationships, school, workplace, marriage, families and more?



Generosity in the Kingdom

Matthew 20:1-16

Laborers in the Vineyard

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' 5So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. 6And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' 7They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' 8And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' 9And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. 10Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. 11And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 12saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' 13But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. 15Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' 16So the last will be first, and the first last."

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