

Week 5: A Question about Grace

Series: The Questions Jesus Asked

Key Verses: Matthew 20:1–15; Luke 15:11–32

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Big Idea: This is the story of the Eleventh Hour Workers. It ends with the owner asking the other workers, “Or are you envious because I am generous?” The incident becomes a marvelous illustration of God’s extravagant generosity, which we call Grace.

There are three possible outcomes when you stand before a judge:

1. Justice
2. Mercy
3. Grace

Parable of the Eleventh Hour _____ (Matthew 20:1-15).

- **Justice** would be paying everyone in exactly proportionate amounts according to how many hours they work.
- **Mercy** would be paying everyone a little extra but still in proportionate amounts.
- But Jesus says the owner acts in **Grace** and pays everyone the same.

The story concludes with today’s question: “*Or are you envious because I am generous?*”

The Parable of the Prodigal _____ (Luke 15:11-32).

- Both sons had a false image of their father.
- The younger son responds by demanding his share of the inheritance and running away.
 - **Justice:** In the pigpen the son is getting exactly what he deserves.
 - **Mercy:** He hopes his father will treat him like one of the servants.
 - **Grace:** Instead, the father throws him the mother of all parties.

Why we object to God’s generosity:

- It’s not fair.
- The illusion is that we can actually earn God’s favor.

Think about it: If you can earn God’s love then it’s not love anymore.

What Is God Speaking to me today?:
