

SERMON NOTES: October 4, 2026

It's Not Your Vineyard

Matthew 19:30-20:16

The Kingdom Lesson - 19:30

The Kingdom Illustration - 20:1-16

“But many who are first will be last; and the last, first.”

The Kingdom Illustration (Cont.) - 20:1-16

“But he answered and said to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go, but I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?’ So the last shall be first, and the first last.”

Life Group Study Questions

It's Not Your Vineyard

Matthew 19:30-20:16

1. Have you ever watched someone be refused service? How awkward was this moment for you? Why?

2. How does Christ's statement in 19:30 break our pride? What is the hardest thing to give up about an earned rewards paradigm?

3. The parable of the landowner and the workers is a picture of the Kingdom of Heaven. Who does the owner represent? How does His role shape the entire plot of this story?

4. Have you ever had a neighbor who did whatever he wanted with his property? Did this bother you? Why? Does this reality autonomous prerogative ever bother you when it comes to God?

5. How does the concept of "pay" in this parable mirror the gift of salvation? Is salvation just or does it somehow change for different people? Is it earned by effort?

6. The plight of the laborers is that they are completely dependent upon someone to hire them. They have no security or resource in themselves. How does this mirror man's position in salvation?

7. The struggle the "dawn to dusk" workers have is not with the wage the landowner pays, but with the apparent iniquity in His generosity. How many of you would struggle in the same way if this happened to you? What does that tell you about yourself?

8. How many of you are glad that God's salvation is not merit based? Do you agree that He can offer it to anyone no matter the circumstance? Does the timing or circumstance of your salvation have any bearing on the reward of eternal life?

9. What worker and what hour do you see yourself as in this story? Spend some time praying and thanking God that this does not determine your salvation, and rejoice that God brought you into His vineyard!