

Sermon Notes

The Parable of the Vineyard Owner

Matthew 20.1-19

November 5, 2023

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. **2** After agreeing with the workers on one denarius, he sent them into his vineyard for the day. **3** When he went out about nine in the morning, he saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. **4** He said to them, ‘You also go into my vineyard, and I’ll give you whatever is right.’ So off they went. **5** About noon and about three, he went out again and did the same thing. **6** Then about five he went and found others standing around[e] and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day doing nothing?’

7 “‘Because no one hired us,’ they said to him.

“‘You also go into my vineyard,’ he told them. **8** When evening came, the owner of the vineyard told his foreman, ‘Call the workers and give them their pay, starting with the last and ending with the first.’

9 “When those who were hired about five came, they each received one denarius. **10** So when the first ones came, they assumed they would get more, but they also received a denarius each. **11** When they received it, they began to complain to the landowner: **12** ‘These last men put in one hour, and you made them equal to us who bore the burden of the day’s work and the burning heat.’

13 “He replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I’m doing you no wrong. Didn’t you agree with me on a denarius? **14** Take what’s yours and go. I want to give this last man the same as I gave you. **15** Don’t I have the right to do what I want with what is mine? Are you jealous because I’m generous?’

16 “So the last will be first, and the first last.”

17 While going up to Jerusalem, Jesus took the twelve disciples aside privately and said to them on the way, **18** “See, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death. **19** They will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked, flogged, and crucified, and on the third day he will be raised.”

Main Idea - Through Christ, we receive a wage we do not deserve, and he receives our just punishment

1. Intro -
2. There Parable and the Players
 1. Day Laborers
 1. The Early Arrivers
 2. The Later Arrivers
 2. The Vineyard Owner

3. Payment Time

1. The order is odd
2. The unfairness that happened

1. Psalm 19.7-10 - **7** The instruction of the Lord is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the Lord is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise. **8** The precepts of the Lord are right, making the heart glad; the command of the Lord is radiant, making the eyes light up. **9** The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are reliable and altogether righteous. **10** They are more desirable than gold— than an abundance of pure gold; and sweeter than honey dripping from a honeycomb.

3. We desire a works based salvation

1. Ephesians 2.4-9 - **4** But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, **5** made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! **6** He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **8** For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— **9** not from works, so that no one can boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

4. The Landowner's Response

1. Friend
2. This life will be trouble.
3. Christ offers all of Himself.
4. Are you upset he is generous?

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- 1.) What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) What is your typical response when treated unfairly? Do you feel like God owes you something?
- 3.) What is your response when treated with grace? When was a time you were given more than you could imagine? How did you respond?
- 4.) If God's Justice was laid on you instead of Christ, how would you have responded?
- 5.) Is God's grace truly free? What does it mean to live in light of grace being free?
- 6.) From your Grow Group time, what is an idea or two from your discussion that you can work to apply this week?