

The Parable of the Laborers
in the Vineyard

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WARM-UP

- Do you freely lend your things to others? Why or why not?
- Do you consider yourself to be generous? Why or why not?
- Who do you trust the most? Why do you trust him or her?

WORD

¹⁵“Am 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.”

MATTHEW 20:15,16

(Read also **MATTHEW 20:1-14.**)

In the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, Jesus told the story of the generous master who gave graciously to those who worked for him. More often than not, we are the same way. We expect and think we deserve more than what we have been given. But, the truth is, God’s generous grace extends to all His children, and the same gift of eternal life is available to us all. In this lesson, we will look at how this parable shows us who God is—He is good, generous, and gracious—and how He is always worthy of our trust.

1 Goodness

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.’”

MATTHEW 20:1-4

When the master said that he would give the workers what is right, he gave the workers an opportunity to trust him. Just like the master, God’s goodness makes Him the most trustworthy master that we can serve. His plans are always for our best interest, and He makes abundant provision. What does God promise in Jeremiah 29:11? How have you seen this in your life?

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2 Generosity

"But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?" **MATTHEW 20:13**

(Read also **MATTHEW 20:8-12**.)

This seemingly unfair decision is actually a reflection of the master's generosity. Similarly, Jesus encourages us to put our trust in God because He is endlessly generous and gives us better than we deserve. Why do you think we have a tendency to base God's generosity on what others have rather than on who He is and what He gives us? How can we guard against comparison, grumbling, and entitlement?

3 Grace

¹³"But 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." **MATTHEW 20:13-16**

The good and generous master extended grace to those who worked for him. In the same way, God extends grace to us—not because we deserve it, but because of who He is. God's grace is best displayed for us by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. That's why we don't get what we deserve (mercy) and we get what we don't deserve (grace). How did you understand what grace really is and how did this truth change your life?

APPLICATION

- How do you think you would have responded if you were part of the first set of workers? Why? How can you have a better understanding of God's generosity and grace this week?
- What situation could be hindering you from trusting God's goodness? Do you believe that He is sovereign, faithful, and trustworthy?
- Think of one person you can encourage this week with the truth of this parable. What can you do to encourage him or her?

PRAYER

- Thank God for being your good, generous, and gracious Father. Ask God for forgiveness for times when you've complained, grumbled, or felt entitled. Thank Him for the grace that He gives you every day.
- Ask God to reveal areas in your life that might be hindering you from trusting Him completely, and surrender them before Him. Pray for humility and joy to fill your heart. Ask Him to help you deepen your trust and strengthen your relationship with Him.
- Pray that your life would be a reflection of who God is to you. Pray that you would be generous and gracious like your heavenly Father.



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