

The Third Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 19, 2017
“Stories of the Saviour ~ Envy & Grace in the Vineyard”

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus’ parables were little _____ that were able to make an immediate claim on the crowd’s _____ by focussing on the common elements of life, which were of interest to everyone. However, Jesus’ parables were more than just stories—they were stories with a _____, hidden _____.

All of Jesus’ parables had an element of _____ to them, however, this parable probably would have left His audience more stunned than any they’d heard so far.

When Jesus sent out the 72, taught that a worker _____ his wages.

“Behold, the wages of the labourers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.” (James 5:4)

At first glance, we might think the issue Jesus is addressing here is _____.

Envy =

Envy = *zelos* =

Spiritually speaking, envy can be defined as resenting God’s _____ to others, and ignoring God’s goodness to me. In other words, I’m so busy wanting what other people have, I don’t _____ what I’ve already got.

Jealousy = fear of _____ something. Envy; however, is always about _____—wanting something you don’t have. Envy is a _____ sin—you can’t see it just by looking at someone. Because of this, envy’s battlefield is always in our _____ and mind.

“Wherever there is envy you’ll find every kind of evil.” (James 3:16)

“A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body; envy is like cancer in the bones.” (Proverbs 14:30)

This parable has less to do with the _____ of the workers and more to do with the _____.

3 LESSONS ABOUT GOD

Lesson #1: _____.

“‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’” (Matthew 20:13-15)

One of the challenges that Jesus’ original audience would have had with this story is the apparent _____ of the landowner. However, we need to remember Jesus’ _____ for telling this parable. Jesus states very clearly in His introduction that this parable is all about the _____.

One of the most important things we can learn about the kingdom of heaven is that it’s _____ are very different from the _____ values.

The landowner in this story is clearly _____ and the parable is all about God’s _____. Jesus is telling us that just as the landowner can pay his workers whatever he wants to pay them, God has the right to do whatever He wants with His _____. He doesn’t have to _____ to us, nor explain Himself to us. It’s not about _____ understanding of what’s fair or unfair.

“‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,’ declares the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.’” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

“I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” (Exodus 33:19)

Lesson #2: _____.

“And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’” (Matthew 20:6-7)

A common interpretation of this parable is that the different workers represent how different people come to _____ in Christ at different _____ in their life.

- The first group of workers—those who started at the beginning of the day—represent those who’ve been a _____ of God’s Kingdom for most of their _____. Through the _____ witness of parents or

grandparents—a Godly _____—came to faith at an early age, and have had the benefit of living their life in the _____ with Jesus.

• The workers who started at various times throughout the day represent those who came to faith _____ in life. At some point they had an _____ with Jesus and were _____.

• The third group hired at the end of the day—represent those who come to faith at the _____ of their life through what’s called a “_____ confession.” They _____ Jesus their entire lives. However, moments before they die, they _____ repent and receive Jesus as Lord. Although they’ve missed out on the benefits of living an abundant life and walking with Jesus, like the thief on the cross, they’re _____ a place in paradise with Him.

“For all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

When it comes to Jesus’ offer of salvation, there’s no _____ date.

“And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, ‘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.’” (Matthew 20:11-12)

It’s never too late to _____ in Jesus. Up until our last breath, we can give our _____ to Him.

“Everyone whom the Father gives me will come to me. I will never turn away anyone who comes to me.” (John 6:37)

Lesson #3: _____.

“Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?” (Matthew 20:14)

Although Jesus may never have said it, Jesus _____ grace every day. Although He never said grace, Jesus said a whole lot _____ it.

3 THINGS ABOUT GOD’S GRACE

• **God’s grace is** _____.

Extravagant =

A denarius was a normal day’s wage for a _____, not a day

labourer. So, the labourers who put in a full day’s works were compensated _____ for their time. However, the real extravagance of God’s grace is seen when even those who had worked for only one hour were paid just as _____—so much more than they _____.

The point of the parable is that God’s grace isn’t something we _____ or even _____. In fact, grace is getting what we _____ deserve—it’s a gift, _____ given by an extravagant God

The whole concept of grace runs contrary to our natural human _____ and the ways of the _____. We like the idea of _____ our own way. That is what _____ is all about.

God dispenses _____, not _____. Grace has nothing to do with what we’ve _____ or not earned.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the free gift of God...” (Ephesians 2:8)

• **God’s grace is** _____.

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

“For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.” (John 1:16)

• **God’s grace is** _____.

We only think something is unfair because we like to _____ ourselves to others. None of the workers were disappointed with what they received until they _____ what everyone else received. They started comparing themselves with others, which led to _____, then to _____, and ultimately _____.

Jesus is our _____. And compared to Him. We all fall _____.



“My grace is sufficient for you.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Is God’s grace sufficient for you—is it all you need?