

## The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 17, 2024

### “Listening to Jesus: Envy & Grace”

Ephesians 2:1-10 & Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus’ parables were more than just stories—they were stories with a \_\_\_\_\_, hidden \_\_\_\_\_.

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)

On one level, we can interpret this parable as being all about \_\_\_\_\_ and the workers’ charge that the landowner’s actions were \_\_\_\_\_.

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: God is \_\_\_\_\_.**

“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: God gives people many \_\_\_\_\_ to come to Him.**

“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: It is all about \_\_\_\_\_.**

“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**

“All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...” (Ephesians 2:3-5)

Justice is getting what we \_\_\_\_\_. Mercy is \_\_\_\_\_ getting what we deserve. And grace is getting what we \_\_\_\_\_ deserve and \_\_\_\_\_!

• **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?**