

“The Gospel Isn’t Fair” ♦ Matthew 20:1-16
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- I. This parable is about the blessings of salvation to Jews and Gentiles.
 - A. Many Jews begrudged the grace of God shown to the Gentiles.
 - B. Jews had been in covenant with God since Abraham.
 - C. God provided salvation to a people who did not seek him. “I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, ‘Here am I, here am I’” (Isaiah 65:1).
- II. Everyone gets treated the same – regardless whether they came in at 6AM, 9AM, 12PM, 3PM, or 5PM.
- III. Those who worked longer expected more for working longer.
 - A. Jesus paid those who started the latest first (Mt 20:9).
 - B. As he was paying those who worked less, those who worked longer were expecting more (Mt 20:10).
- IV. The landowner was faithful to his promise.
 - A. He paid those who worked the longest what he promised. He did not shortchange them.
 - B. The dissatisfaction only came in when they compared themselves to others.
 - C. The dissatisfaction was over his generosity.
- V. The workers went to work thinking they were working according to their rules of fairness, not rules of grace and generosity.
- VI. We have a problem with God showing grace to people that we judge to be unworthy of the riches of salvation.

Test: Is there anyone about whom you think you’re better than or more “spiritual”? If so you’re like the workers who think they deserve more.

How do you react to the news that your years of faithfulness to the church, to living a moral life, all of your religiosity doesn’t get you any more than someone you really dislike who trusts Jesus Christ in the last hour of his death? Imagine a scenario where after more than a decade of genocide, Hitler trusts Jesus Christ as his only hope. God shows him the same grace and gives him the same gift that he gives you.

When we face adversity, do we look around and see people who haven’t followed Christ as long enjoying a calm life and not facing much adversity and think that God isn’t treating us fairly?

This is what God’s kingdom is like: everybody who works in the vineyard gets the same treatment no matter how long we’ve been in the vineyard. That’s grace.