

“Must you be jealous because I am generous?” – J.B. Phillips

Passage Walk-through

Matthew 20:1a, “For the kingdom of heaven is like...”

“For...”

Matthew 19:30, “But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Matthew 20:16, “So the last will be first, and the first last.”

Main Point: The kingdom of heaven is filled with _____, not meritorious reward.

Five Laborers

The master hires **FIVE SETS** of laborers:

- Early (1-2) = 6-7 am
- Third hour (3-4) = 9 am
- Sixth hour (5) = noon
- Ninth hour (5) = 3 pm
- Eleventh hour (6-7) = 5 pm

Three Agreements

- _____ agreement = one denarius for one day’s labor
- _____ agreement (third, sixth, and ninth) = “whatever is right”
- _____ agreement = “you go too”

One Wage

“And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius.” (9-10)

Response to the one payment . . .

- What they thought - they _____
- What they said - they _____

“Friend, may I show you the document you signed this morning?”

A Merit-based Mindset with the Master

1. _____ - Am I jealous (envious) when someone receives good that I didn’t receive?
2. _____ - Do I grumble when others receive gifts that they don’t deserve?
3. _____ - Am I mad when God doesn’t give me the life or the things I expected?

Psalm 73:13, “All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence.”

4. _____ - Do I assume that I should receive more/better than others who don’t perform as well as I do?

Matthew 20:12, “You made them equal to us!”

Theology: Top down, or bottom up?

Do you want a relationship with God built on _____ or _____?

Romans 6:23 -

“When sinful men and women are faced with a holy, good God, they have no clothes to hide their nakedness. Merit is excluded. All depend on grace alone. Without it they would not have a chance.”