

Study Guide
The Kingdom Has Come
Matthew 20:1-16

Big Idea: Grace > Works

1. What does God owe you? (*Make a list in your mind*). Discuss together what is on your lists.
2. Discuss a time when you were disappointed with God. Perhaps you prayed for something to get better and then it got worse. Has God not been good to you? Discuss.
3. Read Matthew 20:1-16 together. Can you think of an incidence in your life where you felt like the workers that came early in the morning? Has God been unfair to you? Notice how one group received justice, and another received grace, but no one was treated unjustly. How does that affect you?
4. Would you say that you have felt anger towards God in the last few months? Notice the words “expected”, “grumbled”, and “envious” in the passage. How can we side-step these potential pitfalls?
5. Take a few minutes to pray over these two passages. Praise God for His generosity and His grace towards us.
1 Cor. 2:9- “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived- the things God has prepared for those who love him.”
2 Cor. 4:17- “For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”

Message Slides

Upside Down Kingdom

Big Idea: Grace > Works

A. Work in the Vineyard (1)

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard.

A. Work in the Vineyard (2-4)

2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

3 “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. **4** He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’

A. Work in the Vineyard (5-7)

5 So they went. “He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing.

6 About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ **7** “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’”

A. Work in the Vineyard (8-9)

8 “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

9 “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius.

A. Work in the Vineyard (10-12)

10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. **11** When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

12 ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

Let’s talk about works...

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Eph. 2:8-9)

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“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Eph. 2:10)

Eternal Rewards

1. Crown of Joy (1 Thess. 2:19) – leading people to Christ
2. Crown of Glory (1 Pet. 5:2-4) – mentoring
3. Crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8) – purity
4. Crown of Life (James 1:12) – endurance
5. Enduring Crown (1 Cor. 9:25) – discipline (athlete)
6. Joyful acceptance of persecution (Matt. 5:11-12)
7. Financial Generosity – (Matt. 6:19-21)

Bema Seat

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.” (2 Cor. 5:10...)

“And every man will receive their own reward according to their own labor.” (1. Cor. 3:8)

“Well done, you good and faithful servant.” (Matt. 25:23)

Is it wrong to strive for reward?

Jesus: “...who for the joy set before him endured the cross.” (Heb. 12:2b)

Peter: ““We’ve given up everything to follow you. What will we get?” (Matt. 19:27)

First/Last Dynamic

“For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” (Luke 7:28)

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“They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ‘Worthy are you...’” Rev. 4:10b-11a

A. Work in the Vineyard (13-15)

13 “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? **14** Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. **15** Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

B. The Gospel of Grace (16)

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

C. Grace > Works

1. “Expected”- Love > Contract

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2. “Grumble”- Gratefulness > Grumbling

3. “Envious”- Contentment > Comparing

Upside/Down Kingdom