

## **“Are you envious because I am generous?”**

Matthew 19:16-20:16

### **I. God is a God of JUSTICE.**

📖 Matthew 19:16–26 (NIV84) ‘Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”<sup>17</sup> “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.”<sup>18</sup> “Which ones?” the man inquired. Jesus replied, “ ‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony,<sup>19</sup> honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’”<sup>20</sup> “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”<sup>21</sup> Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”<sup>22</sup> When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.<sup>23</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.<sup>24</sup> Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”<sup>25</sup> When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?”<sup>26</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

📖 Matthew 19:27–30 (NIV84) “Peter answered Him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”<sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.<sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.<sup>30</sup> But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.”

### **II. God is a God of GRACE.**

📖 Matthew 20:1–7 (NIV84) “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard.<sup>2</sup> He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.<sup>3</sup> “About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing.<sup>4</sup> He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’<sup>5</sup> So they went. “He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing.<sup>6</sup> About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’<sup>7</sup> “ ‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’”

#### **Four times people join God in His work**

- 1. Some accept God’s invitation early in life. (Matthew 20:1-2)**
- 2. Some accept God’s invitation later in life. (Matthew 20:3–5a)**
- 3. Some accept God’s invitation late in life. (Matthew 20:5)**
- 4. Some accept God’s invitation almost too late in life. (Matthew 20:6-7)**

📖 Matthew 20:8–10 (NIV84) “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.’<sup>9</sup> “The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius.<sup>10</sup> So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius.”

### III. God is a God of **SURPRISES**.

📖 *Matthew 20:11–12 (NIV84) “When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. <sup>12</sup> ‘These men 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.’”*

📖 *Matthew 20:13–16 (NIV84) “But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? <sup>14</sup> Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup> Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup> “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”*

**Digging Deeper:** *What do you think about this parable? Do you like it? Do you agree or disagree with it? Where do you fit within the story? When grace is given to people that you don’t think deserve it, how does that make you feel? When  grace is extended to you, how does that make you feel? If you are a follower of Christ, at what age did you accept His invitation? How much of your life has been spent apart from Christ? Do you expect God to just be just? Will you share God’s grace with someone this week?*