

## The Value of Values

Value #3: Meeting People Where They Are

Matthew 20:1-16

📖 Matthew 9:10–13 (NIV84) “While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and “sinners” came and ate with Him and His disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners?’” <sup>12</sup> On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>13</sup> But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

📖 Matthew 19:27 (NIV84) “Peter answered Him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”

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### The Kingdom is about [meeting people where they are](#).

📖 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.’”

#### When People Join God In His Work

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

### The Kingdom is about [showing people what God is like](#).

📖 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.”

📖 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:** Where do you fit within the story? 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? 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? Will you share God’s grace with someone this week?