

## Parables of Grace

### ***Generous Grace: The Workers in the Vineyard***

(Matthew 20:1-16)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. of School President who wants to take his teachers on a trip to the "Holy Land."
    - a. Would you be praising the President for his graciousness?
    - b. Or would you be crying, "That's not fair!?"
  2. The parable in Matthew 20:1-16, is identical in principle. The situation is different, but the desired takeaway is the same.
  3. Let's study this parable together.

#### **I. Recounting the Parable**

- A. (Matthew 20:1-16).
- B. A landowner hired several workers to help him in his vineyard.
- C. He paid them according to "what is right" (20:4), but gave the one's who worked the least the same amount as those who had worked all day.
- D. This made the early workers complain about their wages.

#### **II. Responding to the Parable**

- A. If you put yourself in the parable, would you be...
  1. Praising the graciousness of the landowner.
  2. Or, crying "Foul," "That's not fair?"
- B. The way the landowner handed out the wages seems intentional.
  1. He could have reversed the order and had no complaint.
  2. But instead, he did it in a way that invited complaint, but exposed the hearts of the workers.
  3. We don't know their response but are left to wonder how we would have responded.
- C. We should rejoice in the good fortune of others.
  1. I hope that is how these workers (or I) would respond to the landowners explanation.
  2. Grace is not only "amazing," but it can also be "infuriating."
  3. This is not an issue of unfairness, but graciousness.
- D. When we compare what we have with what others have, we usually become discontent and unthankful.

- Conclusion:
1. Maybe this parable, instead of being called, "The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard," would be better name, "The Parable of the Generous Landowner."
  2. Let us learn to rejoice over God's graciousness, for a gracious God is good news to us, for we all need grace.