

# **PARABLE OF THE LABORERS**

(07/16/2023; Wednesday Gathering; Matthew 20:1-16; Garett Halbert; Christ Proclamation Church)

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**Sermon Theme: Eternal life in God's kingdom isn't based on our worthiness but on His grace and generosity to those who repent, believe, and display their faith as humble servants (last place living). Therefore, it is worth it for us to humbly follow Christ as His servants that we might be exalted to eternal life!**

## **I. Last Place Considered – Read Matthew 19:16-30**

- A. What observations do you make about the story of the rich young ruler?
- B. Jesus answers the rich young ruler's question with a question. What is the purpose of Jesus' response? How would you define "goodness"? What does your definition of "goodness" say about you?
- C. Jesus tells the rich young ruler that he lacks "one thing." What is the "one thing" that he lacks? Is this just another law to follow or is Jesus getting at something far deeper?
- D. What is the connection between the story surrounding the rich young ruler and the confusion about the kingdom of heaven? What is it about riches that make it "impossible" to enter the kingdom? According to Jesus, how might anyone enter the kingdom of heaven?

## **II. Last Place Highlighted – Read Matthew 20:1-16**

- A. How does the parable of the laborers highlight the themes displayed in Matthew 19:16-30?
- B. As you read the parable, who are the main characters? What is the great problem that Jesus' addresses? What is the climax of the narrative?
- C. How does Jesus address the issue of Jews and Gentiles in this parable? If you were a Jew, how would you react to Jesus' kindness toward the Gentiles?
- D. How would you summarize the main point of the parable of the laborers?

## **III. Last Place Living – Application**

- A. How does Matthew 20:17-20 showcase the greatest display of last place living? How might we actively follow the humble example of the Lord Jesus?
- B. How does the parable of the laborers transform the way that we think about the kingdom of heaven?
- C. In what ways are you prone to fight for first place? What does it look like to live a life of humble servanthood? How would you like to grow in humility this year?