

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

9/15/19

Text: Matthew 20:1-16

Title: Parables of the Kingdom - The Parable of the Laborers

Teacher: Brown Peterson

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In the sermon, Brown taught us about the Parable of the Laborers, in which those who labored all day and those who only labored an hour were both paid the same daily wage, causing the early laborers to envy the others and grumble at the master who had hired them. As Brown said, contrary to the way the world works, God's kingdom does not operate based on work and wages. God (the Master), doesn't hire the workers to come into His field because they deserve to be there, He gives them an opportunity to have a job and provide for their family out of his own generosity and grace. Contrary to the way the world works, where we demand that someone who works more deserves to be paid more, God's kingdom operates on grace. If God were to truly give us what we deserve, we would all receive a punishment of death for our sin. However, God in His mercy and grace, has chosen to not give us what we deserve, but instead to give us His love and presence. We can receive eternal life and blessing because Jesus has earned it on our behalf, and we can be forgiven and made clean because Jesus has taken on himself what we rightly deserved (death and punishment from God).

Reflection Questions:

1. *"Why does the jerk always get the girl?"* Brown said we've all faced circumstances that felt unfair, and we got the raw end of the deal.
 - ***When has something felt unfair, like you deserved the credit or reward or just a better life, but someone else got it instead?***
2. *Brown said we expect things from God He never promised to give. We expect to be rewarded for working harder than other Christians; for our lives to be better or easier.*
 - ***What have you expected God to give you that, if you think about it, He never promised to give?***
 - ***What might that reveal about how we relate to God?***
3. *Brown said, as Christians the glory of God's forgiveness can easily give way to grumbling as we lose sight of the grace we've received.*
 - ***What is it like to celebrate someone else's success, especially when it's in the same field as us?***
 - ***What is it like to be told "the last shall be first, and the first last?" How does that lead you to worship God and need to repent of sin?***

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION (The Father)

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

- *Worship the LORD of the Harvest. Praise God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His compassion to save sinners like us when He could justly judge and condemn us instead*

2. CONFESSION (Me)

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

- *How have you lived with a demanding spirit toward God? How have you lived as if He owes you more (and you owe Him little) instead of living in amazement at His mercy and grace? Confess your sin to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and change your heart?*

3. THANKSGIVING (Jesus)

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

- *Give thanks to Jesus for the wonder of His willingness to work on your behalf - and to work long, hard and joyfully - that you could be redeemed. Thank Him for His diligence, patience, and generosity to work to recover what was rightfully His all along.*

4. SUPPLICATION (Holy Spirit)

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

- *Ask the Holy Spirit to bear the fruit of faithfulness in your heart, especially to labor faithfully in the work Jesus has given you to do. Pray for grace to abide in Jesus, the Vine, for apart from Him we can do nothing.*

5. Prepare for Gospel Community (My Neighbor)

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

- *Who do you know that works hard in Jesus' mission? Pray for them, asking the Lord to give them stamina, a grateful attitude and fruitfulness in their work for Jesus' sake.*