

Sermon Discussion Guide

8/2/2026

Sermon: Kingdom Stories "*Grace Changes the Story*"

Text: **Matthew 20:1-16**

Introduction:

Think of a time when something happened that you thought was "unfair."

How did you respond? Looking back now, do you still see it the same way?

We all have a natural sense of fairness. Today's parable challenges us to consider that God's Kingdom operates according to grace rather than merit.

From the Text

Read **Matthew 19:27-30** before reading **Matthew 20:1-16**.

Discussion:

1. Why did Jesus tell this parable?

What question is Peter asking Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus answered Peter with a story instead of a direct answer?

How does Matthew 19:30 prepare us for the parable?

Digging Deeper

2. What do you learn about the Master?

Read Matthew 20:1-7 again. Instead of focusing on the workers, make a list of everything the Master does.

Which action of the Master stands out most to you?

Why does he continue returning to the marketplace?

What does this reveal about God's character?

Consider these verses:

Luke 19:10 – "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

John 6:44 – The Father draws people to Himself.

Romans 5:8 – Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

3. Read Matthew 20:8-15.

What actually caused their dissatisfaction?

Was their problem injustice, or comparison?

Why is comparison so spiritually dangerous?

4. What are some modern ways comparison steals gratitude?

Read: James 3:16 - *"For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice."*

5. The Question Jesus Leaves Us With

Read verse 15 again. "Are you envious because I am generous?" Some translations read, "Is your eye evil because I am good?"

Why doesn't Jesus answer Peter's question directly?

Instead, why does He end with a question?

How does that question expose the heart?

Growing in Grace

Grace doesn't stop when we're forgiven. **Look at these passages:** Philippians 2:3-5, Romans 12:9-16, 2 Corinthians 3:18

How do these passages describe a transformed heart?

According to these verses, what is God trying to produce in us?

How is that different from simply becoming "more religious"?

Grace doesn't just change our destination. Grace changes our story.

How has God's grace changed your story? Where do you sense God still changing your story? What is one area where you need to become more like the Master?

As a group, brainstorm practical ways to celebrate God's grace in someone else's life this week instead of comparing yourself to them.

 **Close in prayer: Read Ephesians 2:4-10.**