



MEMBERSHIP @ GRACE BVD

This September we will have Membership Classes, which will be a 3-hour gathering which we will offer a few different times that you can pick from, like a Saturday morning or Wednesday evening...you would come to either one, not both

The Parables of Jesus

“God’s Uncomfortable Generosity”

Matthew 20:1-16

July 28, 2019

A Worship Series for the Summer of ‘19

GSD & M

Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning (6am) to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And going out about the third hour (9am) he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵ So they went.

Going out again about the sixth hour (noon) and the ninth hour (3pm) he did the same. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour (5pm) he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.'

⁸ And when evening came (6pm), the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius.

¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house,
¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made
them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the
scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am
doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?
¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last
worker as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose
with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?'
¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last."

“Hard Work Pays Off”

Proverbs 10:4-5

A slack hand causes poverty,
but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

⁵ He who gathers in summer is a prudent son,
but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.

...unless...

“Hard Work Pays Off”

“For the *kingdom of heaven* is like...”

God’s Economics vs The World’s Economics

The “rich” are brought down; the “poor” are brought up

drama

¹¹ And on receiving it they **grumbled** at the master of the house, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'

"...or do you **begrudge** ("evil eye") my generosity?"

The Early Workers got exactly what was promised.

But they wanted (comparably) more.

They think that their work earns them more favor.

How do I do that?

What's under their (our) anger?



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Early Workers

I have given you my whole life. I didn't do all those 'fun' things but served you all these years! I wish I would have sowed my "wild oats" first instead of "wasting" my good years.



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Early Workers

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Late Workers

That 'fun' did so much damage. I wish I would have been an Early Worker and have been part of God's family longer instead of wasting it away being "idle".



¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have ***made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.***'

**I make it all about Me
It's not a ZeroSum Spiritual Game**

**Do we love God, or what God can do for us?
Do we love others, or what others can do for us?**



‘You go into the vineyard too, and *whatever is “righteous”* I will give you.’

We are all equally poor...

We are all hired from the streets

Our “works” do not and cannot
add to Christ’s righteousness.

The Gospel is the great equalizer.

‘You go into the vineyard too, and *whatever is “righteous”* I will give you.’

We are all equally poor...

We are all hired from the streets
Our “works” do not and cannot
add to Christ’s righteousness.
The Gospel is the great equalizer.

...and given outrageous riches

All who are in Christ have been
paid with His “righteousness”
And made instrumental for Him.
The Gospel is the great equalizer.

¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

A First/Last Sandwich

Matthew 19:30

*But many who are first will be last,
and the last first.*

Through this “camel through the eye of the needle” teaching, Jesus explains that humility and loss in the Kingdom of the World precedes exaltation in the Kingdom of Heaven.

A First/Last Sandwich

Matthew 19:30

*But many who are first will be last,
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Through this “camel through the eye of the needle” teaching, Jesus explains that humility and loss in the Kingdom of the World precedes exaltation in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 20:26b-27

*But whoever would be great among
you must be your servant, ²⁷ and
whoever would be first among you
must be your slave*

James and John’s mother asked Jesus to put her sons in a position of power, but Jesus says that true power is in being lower, serving others.

We are all equally last in holiness,
and equally righteous in Christ.

A First/Last Savior

Matthew 20:28

“...even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

A First/Last Savior

Philippians 2:5-11

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A First/Last Savior

Philippians 3:7-9

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith

First/Last Servants

To Believe

John 6:28-29

Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

To Love

Luke 10:27-28

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

God wants YOU, not what you can DO for him

The Gospel for the Late workers

Your failures and inabilities don't disqualify you from the Father's Household or His love.

The Gospel for the Early Workers

You are valued by The Master and your work matters, but your work doesn't elevate and entitle you

The Gospel for the Late workers

- Come to the field! The Master is calling us to join together to His work and to his eternal reward, which is Him, not just what he can give you.
- Learn from those who have been in the field longer; and humbly teach them as well.

The Gospel for the Early Workers

- Salvation is not a zero-sum game; others' being blessed does not detract from your inheritance.
 - Rejoice that there are more brothers and sisters joining in glory.
- Rejoice that our Heavenly Father is ridiculously generous (or else we all would be bankrupt).