



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 24th September 2023



Matthew 20:1-16 Gratitude and Grumbling

Warm Up

Have you ever been treated in a way you believed to be unfair? Have you ever been shown tremendous generosity? How did you react to both?

Background and context

In the previous chapter, Jesus has encountered a rich man who was also trying to be good enough to go to heaven. Jesus tells him to give up his wealth and follow Him. The man cannot. Peter then asks Jesus what reward will there be for the disciples who have given up everything for Him. Jesus tells him that there is a great reward awaiting them in heaven. But is that a reward for their sacrifice or is it God's gracious generosity?

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Matt 19: 27-20:16 *What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.*

1. Why do you think the vineyard owner paid the workers who joined last, first?
2. Where do your natural sympathies lay in the story?
3. What parts of the parable seem unjust? Why?
4. How does the vineyard owner explain his actions? Is it right by worldly standards?
5. If we think about the parable in terms of forgiveness rather than money, how does it change things?
6. We all need forgiveness in different amounts. Explain how the parable reveals God's generosity with His forgiveness.
7. Read 19:27. What is Peter's opinion regarding following Jesus and his position in God's kingdom?
8. Read 19:30. How does Jesus challenge Peter about his opinion?

Growing in discipleship: Practical application



9. In what ways can Church be a picture of the parable in Matt 20?
10. Have you been guilty of grumbling like the morning workers?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.