

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

SERVICE IN GOD'S KINGDOM – A PRIVILEGE OF GRACE

The Parable of Grumbling Workers

Matthew 20:1-16

1. The earthly story of the workeres in the vineyard.

Parables are “earthly stories with heavenly meanings,” or better:

Jesus uses to circumstances from daily life to illustrate truths about the Kingdom of Heaven.

We can sympathize with the laborers who toiled all day under the sun but received the same as those who worked one hour.

This is NOT, however, a lesson in economics or labor relations, but a lesson on the Kingdom of Heaven.

However,

If you agree to terms & conditions for a job and that's what you receive, you have no grounds to complain if someone else gets a better deal. Be glad for the job & be honorable.

And, a person's wealth is his own (under God), not yours; he can be as generous as he wishes to whom he wishes, and no one can complain of unfairness. A gift is a GIFT.

2. The Kingdom lessons

a. Salvation is a gift from God, NOT a reward we earn.

This parable flows out of Peter's question & Jesus' answer

(19:27-30).

The Apostles are those who will work through the heat of the long day, and those who come to faith through their preaching will receive the same gift of salvation as they.

The Apostles and ALL Christian believers

(no matter how long or hard we may toil in the Lord's vineyard), what our SINS deserve is the wages of sin, eternal death.

The gift of salvation was earned **for us by Jesus** – 20:17-19.

b. Therefore, serving in God's Kingdom is a *privilege*.

Rejoice that Christ has called you to Himself & into His Kingdom.

Rejoice at the privilege of serving Him - however long or hard.

c. An application to Christ Presbyterian Church.

Some members have been her from the start (early 1970s), have worked hard, sacrificed much.

Others are new-comers.

ALL should rejoice to be together in Christ's church by His grace, & NO ONE should begrudge any other a place of service or recognition is seems “higher” than another.

The Lord distributes His gifts as seems good to Him 1Cor.12:4ff,11) and ALL given *for the common good* (vs.7).

See Rom.12:3ff, Eph.4:7,12,16, 1 Peter 1:10-11.