




TALES
OF
THE
KINGDOM

 New Life Christian Center
August 18, 2024

Pastor Brian Benton | Turlock

“THE WORKERS IN THE FIELD”

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So, they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ And when evening came, 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.’ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 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.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ So, the last will be first, and the first last.” Matthew 20: 1-16 (ESV)

1. Comparison takes my _____ off what _____.

2. God’s _____ are not based on my _____.


For by grace, you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Eph. 2:8-9 (ESV)

3. God does not _____ me anything.

“Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ So the last will be first, and the first last.” Matthew 20:13-16 (ESV)



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1. Comparison takes my eyes off what matters.

2. God’s blessings are not based on my works.

For by grace, you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Eph. 2:8-9 (ESV)

3. God does not owe me anything.

“Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ So the last will be first, and the first last.” Matthew 20:13-16 (ESV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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[CONNECT]

Share a time in your life when the way you felt, and the reality of the situation were two completely different things.

[ENGAGE]

What stood out to you from this weekend's message?

[GROW]

Start by reading Matthew 20:1-16. Talk about the dynamics that are taking place here. Can you understand how the first group of workers would feel cheated? Would you be embarrassed if you were one of the 5pm workers?

What do you believe is the main lesson in the parable? Don't compare your blessings to others? Focus on your mission and not that of your brothers? We serve a generous God who gives more than we deserve? What lesson stands out to you the most?

Talk about the dangers of comparison? Why is this such a harmful trait in the life of a believer? Why do we struggle with this so much?

God gives blessings because he loves us. Do you ever struggle with the idea that God's blessings, love or favor are based on our works? What do you do to combat or overcome that thought process?

God does not owe you anything. That's a bold statement and can be a little hard to swallow. What's your opinion of this? Is it hard for you to buy into this philosophy?

[LEAD (YOURSELF)]

Sometime this week, take an inventory of your mindset when it comes to your relationship with God. Is comparison an issue for you? Do you believe that you must work for God's blessing and favor. How do you respond when someone else is blessed, even though you feel, they haven't earned it. Ask God to examine your heart and mind and to bring to light anything that needs attention and tweaking.