

Can Grace Really Be That Good – Part 3?

Introduction and Review

- We considered two questions: “Who can be saved?” & “What will we have?” (Mt. 19:23-30).
- Wealth & possessions are no advantage to sinners in salvation but are rather false security, obstacles & a disadvantage (v. 23-26).
- Humble & loving sacrifices made for Christ after salvation will be rewarded magnanimously both in this life & in eternity – 10,000% (v. 27-29).
- Rewards are based on grace, not popularity or merit (v. 30).

I. Grumbling About Grace (Mt. 20:8-12)

A. Wrong assumptions (v. 8-10)

*Jesus is giving truths about the kingdom of God (v. 1). Correct errors from last week (v. 2-7). The 1st group of workers was well informed about & agreed to their wages (v. 2). They were well aware that some workers started to work later in the day & were even paid first (v. 9). The problem surfaced when the 1st group was paid the same amount – wrong assumptions (v. 10). Whenever believers assume they can **change** The Master’s plan & word, there will be problems; or assume they **deserve** more!*

B. Wrong response (v. 11-12)

*After receiving the agreed wages, the 1st group of workers grumbled.... Rather than **being thankful** for having money to meet their needs, **they complained** because other needy workers were paid the same under different circumstances.*

II. Justice and Generosity in Grace (Mt. 20:13-16)

A. Justice (v. 13-14a)

*The master demonstrates there was **no injustice** – “Did you not agree...?” He gave the 1st group the fair & agreed wages – met all obligations. The master did not owe the workers any more money; they should have been thankful & left (v. 14a). Sometimes believers complain about injustice or unfairness, but they have made wrong assumptions or forgotten God’s faithfulness. God responds to complaints...*

B. Generosity (v. 14b-16)

*The last group of workers was completely dependent upon the master’s fairness – grace (v. 4). They were paid first & very generously (v. 8). The master has the authority to be **lavishly generous** with whomever he chooses. The Master chooses to be **lavishly generous** to the most undeserving believers in order to clearly demonstrate that blessings & rewards are unmerited – GRACE! (Eph. 1:8)*
The workers must remember that they were all unemployed before the master took the initiative & hired them. They had no means of meeting their needs until the master hired them. God’s blessings generously given to one believer should not be the cause envy among other believers.

APPL: Principles of grace in the kingdom of God (v. 1):

1. Rewards are based on grace, not works (age, length of time or difficulty in ministry, etc.)
2. All believers are equal as children of God & citizens in the kingdom of God (v. 12, 16) – *order of events, circumstances & timing are irrelevant (Jews/Gentiles, wealthy/poor, etc.)*
3. God is never unjust or unfair (v. 13)
4. God as Master has supreme authority over blessings & rewards (v. 15)
5. God is exceedingly generous & gracious with blessings & rewards (v. 15)
6. Believers should not become envious of God’s blessings or rewards in ministry to another believer (v. 15b)

CONCLUSION

Therefore my brothers & sisters in Christ with which group of workers can you most identify – first or last? Are working diligently in the kingdom of God in order to get a big reward or have an important position in eternity or even in this life? Are you working hard to outdo another brother or sister? Can you sense that competitive nature in yourself? Or are you like the last group, working for Christ because you love Him & trust Him to be more than fair with your blessings & rewards; trusting that whatever he gives you will be exceedingly more than you deserve & certainly more than you have earned? Grace frees you to trust Jesus as the Master who gives generously to whomever He chooses. Can grace really be that good – YES IT IS. Therefore we can rejoicing & be exceedingly glad for great is your reward in heaven – GRACE!!!!

And if you are not a Christian, you can become a member of this wonderful family of God too. You can have Jesus as your Savior & Master and God as your heavenly Father. You can have the Holy Spirit as your Teacher, Comforter and Guide. But you must come to Jesus in faith first; you must believe in Jesus...

SUBJECT: [Can Grace Really Be That Good – Part 3?](#)

TEXT: [Matthew 20:8-16](#)

LOCATION: [Trinity Community Church](#)

DATE: [August 19, 2012](#)

OCASSION: [Sunday Morning Worship Svc](#)

SERMON INDEX NUMBER: [1008](#)

FILE LOCATION: [Computer Sermons 3Q12](#)

[Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore](#)