

Thy Kingdom Come: Kingdom Wages

Reflect

1. Think of a time when you felt like someone owed you something?
2. Many of us trade work for money, and more work generally means more money. How do you think this has shaped our view of grace?
3. Do you think everyone is entitled to grace?

Read Your Bible

- Ephesians 1:3-10
- Matthew 20:1-16

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. When was the last time you heard or used the phrase "that's not fair"?
2. How would you feel if you were the first worker in the vineyard in today's parable?
3. How would you feel if you were the last worker in the vineyard in today's parable?
4. What is your initial reaction when you learn someone who has done terrible things claims to be a new Christian?
5. Talk about a time when you received a gift you felt unworthy of getting.

6. Describe a time where you gave a gift you felt someone else was unworthy of.
7. What does the parable of the workers in the vineyard tell us about the grace of God?

Conclusion

We have all had that feeling when we think something wrong has been done to us. It could be something small like when we were little and someone else got the last scoop of ice cream, or someone was allowed to move to the front of the line when we had been waiting patiently. We all have a sense of wanting things to be fair and getting what we deserve. God shows us that is not how His grace works. Jesus uses the parable of the workers in the vineyard to demonstrate that God is generous with His grace whether you are the last or first Christian and everywhere in between. Our initial reaction is that we somehow are more deserving as if there is not enough to go around. God's grace is abundant, and He is generous with it. There is enough for all who call upon Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, from the first to the last.

Pray

Heavenly Father, I am sorry that I don't always think other people deserve Your grace. I am sorry that I get caught up sometimes in what I am doing to try to earn grace rather than praising You for Your generosity. Today I praise You, Lord, for Your abundant grace, and I give You thanks that I don't have to be perfect to earn it. I could never do enough to earn this gift.

Help me to be grateful for Your grace and not think in terms of fairness in comparison to others. In Jesus' name. Amen