

Generous Landowner

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 20:1ff.

B. The beginning of this story comes in Matthew 19:27ff. This portion of the story indicates that God is incredibly generous in rewarding our investment in the kingdom, which “The Parable of the Generous Landowner” reinforces.

C. There is no correlation between God’s grace and our work.

II. God is generous beyond all measure with the eleventh hour workers.

A. The eleventh hour workers did not feel that the landowner was unfair, but rather exceedingly generous. We tend to instinctively identify with the first workers hired, so we struggle with the apparent unfairness of the landowner.

B. The reason the landowner goes out to hire workers is because they are there and need the work, not because he needs the help. (Deuteronomy 24:15)

1. God supplies our needs in Christ, not His needs. (Philippians 4:19)

2. We do not see God as generous, so we live day by day afraid that we will exhaust the riches of God.

3. God has promised to supply every one of our needs in Christ based on grace. (Ephesians 1:3; Philippians 4:19; Romans 8:31; Mark 8:36)

III. God provides based on grace, not our merit.

A. God cannot offer grace at the expense of justice.

B. Because of this, Jesus died as our representative to satisfy God’s justice. (1 John 4:9)

C. Now, we can receive God’s grace through our union with Christ and because Christ earned grace.

1. Grace is God’s riches at Christ’s expense. (2 Corinthians 1:20ff)

2. We need to stop looking in ourselves to see what we might deserve and look instead at Christ’s merit. Sometimes we do not receive God’s grace because we relate to Him based on our own merit, instead of Christ’s.

IV. When we live in grace, there is no room for comparing.

A. The first hour workers did not feel that the landowner was unfair because he gave them what was agreed upon, but because the eleventh hour workers received the same payment that they did.

B. God has a right to do what He wants with His blessings. We do not deserve anything and we do not have the right to decide who else should receive a certain amount of blessing. (Galatians 5)

C. We are the eleventh hour workers not the first hour workers. When we identify as the eleventh hour workers, we will see that God is incredibly generous.

Application questions:

1. How can you walk the line between falling into self depreciation and recognizing that we are bankrupt before God?

2. How does Jesus dying as our representative satisfy God's justice?

3. What does it mean to relate to God based on Jesus' merit?
