

Equality in the Kingdom

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 20.

B. God is a God of perfect equality. (Ezekiel 18, Romans 2, Colossians 3:24)

II. Proverb: the first shall be last and the last shall be first.

A. It means that everyone will be the same.

B. Everyone ends in a dead heat.

C. The day laborers were paid daily so they could eat the next day. (Leviticus 19:13; Deuteronomy 24:15)

D. All the workers were paid a day's wage no matter how much they worked that day.

III. Point of the Parable.

A. The vineyard is the kingdom. The denarius is eternal life.

B. No matter how long we work in the kingdom, we will all receive the same glories in heaven.

C. All believers will receive the same eternal life.

D. There is no distinction.

IV. Principles.

A. God initiates salvation sovereignly. We have no right to put demands on what we get.

B. God establishes the terms.

C. God continues to call people into his kingdom. (John 9:4)

D. God is redeeming those who are willing.

E. All who came in work. Our salvation is known by our works.

F. God keeps his promises.

G. God always gives us more than we deserve.

H. Humility is the only right attitude.

I. All that we receive from God is a matter of his grace--works are not a part of it.

Application Questions:

1. What are some practical scenarios today where one might be upset that another receives eternal life with little contribution to the kingdom?

2. How is the parable an illustration of the fact that only grace saves?

3. What does the life look like that knows every moment that God has gives more than we deserve? Explain.
