

GROWTH GROUPS

May 5, 2013

“Justice or Generosity?”

Matthew 20:1-16

Conversation Starter -

Where have you personally experienced grace/generosity/mercy in place of what might be considered fair?

Understanding -

The gospel of Matthew has helped us understand that Jesus has a high standard for those who would follow him. The standard is so high, in fact, that the disciples astonishingly exclaim, *“who then can be saved!”* in 19:25. Jesus responds by saying, *“with man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”* He then goes on to share the parable as a way of teaching that our entrance into the kingdom is never based on our meeting a certain standard (it’s not about what is fair), but only on the gracious invitation of the King or vineyard owner. The standards followers of Christ are called to meet are reflections of Jesus’ lordship over their lives, not a means of salvation.

1. In the services today, Clint had the congregation witness a “game”. How did the response of our congregation/us differ from that of the all-day vineyard workers?
2. Where have you seen mercy/grace/generosity at work rather than fairness? (outside of yourself....not personally)
3. What is the difference between being merciful and simply being tolerant?
4. Why should we keep striving to meet God’s seemingly unreachable standards? How can we do this?

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