



THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE

*Week 2: A Kingdom of Grace | Teacher: Libin Abrahm
Sermon Questions for 3.15..2026*

OPENER

From childhood we develop a strong sense of **fairness**. We want rewards to match effort and outcomes to feel equal. Whether it's siblings comparing gifts, coworkers comparing salaries, or friends comparing opportunities, our instinct is to measure life through the lens of fairness.

But in Matthew 20, Jesus tells a parable that disrupts this instinct. The Kingdom of God does not operate according to our systems of merit or fairness. Instead, it runs on **grace**.

This story invites us to examine our assumptions about God, generosity, and what it means to live in a Kingdom where grace—not fairness—is the governing rule.

READ

Matthew 20:1-16

MAIN POINTS

1. Grace Always Makes Room for More

In the parable, the landowner continually returns to the marketplace throughout the day to hire more workers, even when the workday is nearly over. The point is not that he needed more laborers, but that the laborers needed work. This reflects the heart of God. From the beginning of Scripture, God has continually made room for people to come back to Him. His grace keeps extending the invitation - morning, noon, and evening.

2. Grace Disrupts Our Merit System

When the workers are paid, those who worked only one hour receive the same wage as those who worked all day. The early workers feel offended because they expected their effort to earn them more. However, God's Kingdom does not operate on human calculations of merit. What we receive from God is not something we earn—it is something freely given through grace.

3. Comparison Steals Joy

The workers who were hired first would have been satisfied with their pay if they had not compared it to others, but when they began measuring their reward against someone else's, gratitude turned into resentment. Comparison often robs us of joy and causes us to question God's generosity when we believe someone else has received more than they deserve.

4. Grace Invites Trust Instead of Transaction

Some workers negotiated a contract, but others simply trusted the landowner's promise that he would do what was right. This highlights a deeper question for believers: do we approach God transactionally—trying to earn outcomes—or do we trust His character? In God's Kingdom, relationship with Him is built on trust in His goodness rather than bargaining for results.

5. The Kingdom Runs on Grace, Not Fairness

Jesus ultimately reveals the gospel through this story. No matter when someone enters God's Kingdom—early in life or late—the gift of salvation is the same. God's grace is not wages earned, but a gift freely given, and in His Kingdom the last may be first and the first may be last.

ENGAGE WITH GOD IN A GROUP

- When you hear the word “fairness,” what situations in your life immediately come to mind? Why do you think fairness feels so important to us?
- In the parable, the landowner continues hiring workers throughout the day. What does this reveal about God's heart toward people who feel overlooked or late to faith?
- How do you resonate with workers who were hired first that became upset when others received the same wage?
- How have you experienced the danger of comparison stealing joy in your own life?
- The sermon contrasts transaction with trust in our relationship with God. Have you ever found yourself bargaining with God rather than trusting Him? What did that look like?
- Is there currently a relationship in your life that is strained or feels tense because of a perceived lack of fairness?
- How might understanding God's grace change the way we treat others who receive blessings or opportunities we feel we deserve?

BOTTOM LINE

The Kingdom of God does not run on fairness—it runs on grace. What we receive from God is not something we earn, but a gift freely given through Jesus.