

2. Generous Training & Wisdom

Matthew 20:8-9, "And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius." (ESV)

The last (group #5) were paid first, showing them honor

- ✳ Pay beginning with the last up to the first | making groups 1-4 observers of group #5
- ✳ Eleventh hour, received a denarius | 5pm, The same pay as those working 12 hours

Matthew 20:10-11, "Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house," (ESV)

Comparison based thinking by Group #1 creates conflict

- ✳ Thought they would receive more | Anticipating/expecting a performance pay increase because they (group #1) had been in the vineyard longer (see vv. 8-12)
- ✳ Grumbled | complaining against, unhappy, verbalizing perceived unfairness

Matthew 20:12-13, "saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?" (ESV)

Equal kingdom pay means we have equal significance to God

- ✳ Equal to us | the same as, not in time or experience, but in spiritual worth/significance
- ✳ No wrong | not a moral or ethical issue since they are paid what they had agreed to (v. 2)

Matthew 20:14-15, "Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" (ESV)

Learn to be content with what is your's and not judge the generous

- ✳ Belongs | to own, possess
- ✳ Begrudge | having an evil eye, jealous, judge, to hold something against God

3. Generous Unity in Destiny

Matthew 20:15, "So the last will be first, and the first last." (ESV)

Matthew 19:27-30, But many who are first will be last, and the last first.(ESV)

*God provides the _____ basic outcome for all believers: Heaven!

*Live in God's generous grace to become _____ and generous also.

*Operate humbly by serving others and putting them _____ of yourself.
Drop the _____ for significance to freely serve others.



1. Generous Inviting & Pursuit

Matthew 20:1-2, *“For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.” (ESV)*

Mutual agreement locks down the specified payment amount (Group #1)

- ✳ Kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house | Jesus is the King of heaven and master
- ✳ Agreeing | entering into a formal agreement or coming to terms

Matthew 20:3-5a, *“And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went.” (ESV)*

Payment based on faith in the Lord’s decision leaves it open (Group #2)

- ✳ Standing idle | Anticipating or hoping for action or change of activity level. Inactive.
- ✳ Whatever is right | The landowner is trusted to decide the right thing, which means the participant is exercising faith in God’s character.

Matthew 20:5b, *“Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same.” (ESV)*

He continues the faith-based offer to trust in the Lord (Group #3 & #4)

- ✳ The sixth and ninth hour | noon and 3pm
- ✳ He did the same | pursuit, inviting, asking once again for a faith-based response (see verse 4)

Matthew 20:6-7, *“And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’” (ESV)*

(Group #5) Some people feel dejected, but still wait and hope for something more in life

- ✳ Why do you stand here idle all day | an expectant posture, but missing out on something
- ✳ Because no one hired us | not chosen, unwanted