

SERIES: Week 8: Stories, May 27th
Reading Plan

Sunday-

Attend Church and take notes during the message.

Monday-

READ: **Matthew 19:16-30**

REFLECT:

- For us to have better context of the parable in Matthew 20, it is helpful to look at the parable that came right before it, about the Rich young ruler. After reading the parable today about the rich young ruler, what is the main point Jesus is trying to present here?
- What do you normally think of when you read Matthew 19:30?

PRACTICE:

- How do you need to sell all your possessions (give your entire self to God) today in order to grow your relationship with Him?

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: Watch the following clip from Rightnow Media:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/123396>

REFLECT: This video challenges us to ask ourselves where does our treasure truly lie, is it in things of this earth, or things of God's Kingdom. Take time to ponder this and to really be honest with yourself about it.

(Don't have a RNM account yet? Email sarah@whoisgrace.com to get started.)

Tuesday-

READ: Matthew 20:1-5

REFLECT: We see here the two different types of laborers of this day, the contracted laborer with an agreed upon wage, and the non-contracted laborer who was paid at the end of the day according to what the land owner felt they earned. Does this reflect what is your typical experience in life when your bosses look at things from a worldly point of view? How would you react at work if you and a co-worker got paid differently for doing the same thing?

PRACTICE: Look for ways to challenge your idea of fairness today.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: **Deuteronomy 24:14-15, Leviticus 19:13, Leviticus 25:50**

REFLECT:

- The Pharisees Jesus was speaking to, along with the other Jews hearing the parable, would have had some knowledge of these scriptures from the Old Testament. The religious leaders would have instantly went to these scriptures as a reference to refute Jesus. If Jesus knew that was the case, why did he use this as the example for the parable?

Wednesday-

READ: **Mathew 20:6-9**

REFLECT:

- The first 5 verses would be typical in that day. It would be a little strange for the master to hire more laborers at the eleventh hour to only work for the final hour of the day. This would be from 5pm to 6pm. The real twist of this story comes in verse 8 when the owner tells his foreman to call the laborers in at the end of the day and to pay them in reverse order - starting with those who were hired last! This would have caught people's attention. "Why would he pay them backwards? Something isn't fair!"

PRACTICE:

- What is your reaction when things aren't handled in a "typical" fashion, and even seem unfair in your eyes? Pray for good to change your heart so you can see things the way He does.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/VideoElement/109706>

REFLECT:

- DA Horton talks about the freedom that the gospel offers, and part of that is freedom from viewing things through the eyes of worldly fairness. When we free ourselves from the drive to care what others think and believe about us, we also break down the walls of what we define as fair. This helps us look through God's eyes and become grateful for what he has offered us and others, which is so much more than we deserve.

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Thursday-

READ: **Matthew 20:10-16**

REFLECT:

- This passage starts with the revelation that all the workers get paid the same total amount, not the same per hour. This understandably angers the workers from the beginning of the story,

because in the world's eye there is no justifiable reason to do this. How would you react if you were the "all-day" worker? How would you react if you were the "11th hour" worker?

- What are your real and unguarded thoughts about verse 15 and 16.

PRACTICE:

- Spend time talking to God about verse 15 and 16. If you need to work through some struggles you have with it take time today to do so.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: Luke 23:39-43

REFLECT:

- God is always just and fair. It is His generosity and mercy that surprise us and lead us to construe His exceptional generosity as unfairness. When Jesus forgave the thief on the cross and welcomed him into paradise, does it not seem to us 'unfair' that such a person would receive the same basic reward as a Peter or Paul? Yet this is the wideness of God's mercy. How hard our hearts must be to respond in this way!

PRACTICE:

- Ask God to soften your heart for the "11th Hour" laborer.

Friday-

READ: Matthew 20:1-16

REFLECT:

- There is so much that God does for us that is displayed in this parable that should be celebrated by us. Make a list of all the blessings that are represented here from our wonderful savior.

PRACTICE:

- Spend time PRAISING God for his love and sacrifice that has given you the chance to receive your free gift of salvation and eternal life with Him! He didn't have to do this, but He chose to do so and by His standards of fair and not the world's.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH:

- Watch the following clip about the "Upside Down Gospel"
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/VideoElement/182885> Spend time praising God for what He has done for us.

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Saturday-

Build Your Time with God Today!

Here are some suggestions:

- Review your time with God this week and spend a few minutes journaling a prayer: of praise for who He is, of confession for areas in your life needing His transformation, of thanks for what He has done and of needs for what He can do.
- Check out a Bible memorization app like Remember Me and start memorizing a key verse from this series.
- Check out The Bible Project resources [here](#) on Right Now Media to gain more insight and encouragement as you Find Your Chair. (If you don't yet have a RNM account, email sarah@whoisgrace.com to get started.)