



Kingdom Values- Matthew 20:1-16

Kingdom Values

- One of the hardest things for Christians to grasp are the values in the Kingdom of God or the ways of God in His kingdom
 - How the King rules, how He views life in the kingdom, What He considers fair
 - We try and understand the Kingdom of God using our earthly, humanly sense of what is right, wrong, fair, just, worth

Kingdom Values

- Rich Young Ruler
 - **Matthew 19:21-22 NIV**, 21 Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” 22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Kingdom Values

- Rich Young Ruler
 - **Matthew 19:23-26 MSG**, “23-24 As he watched him go, Jesus told his disciples, “Do you have any idea how difficult it is for the rich to enter God’s kingdom? Let me tell you, it’s easier to gallop a camel through a needle’s eye than for the rich to enter God’s kingdom.” 25 The disciples were staggered. “Then who has any chance at all?” 26 Jesus looked hard at them and said, “No chance at all if you think you can pull it off yourself. Every chance in the world if you trust God to do it.”
 - This blew the disciples minds

Kingdom Values

- Rich Young Ruler
 - **Matthew 19:27 MSG**, 27 Then Peter chimed in, “We left everything and followed you. What do we get out of it?”
 - **Matthew 19:30 NIV**, 30 But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

Scripture - Parable of the Vineyard Workers

- **Matthew 20:1-16 NLT**, “For the Kingdom of Heaven is like the landowner who went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work.
 - As you visualize these first chosen workers, what characteristics would give them?
 - “He agreed to pay” – Sounds like a verbal negotiation

Scripture - Parable of the Vineyard Workers

- **Matthew 20:1-16 NLT**, 3 “At nine o’clock in the morning he was passing through the marketplace and saw some people standing around doing nothing. 4 So he hired them, telling them he would pay them whatever was right at the end of the day. 5 So they went to work in the vineyard. At noon and again at three o’clock he did the same thing.
 - What are your assumptions about these workers?
 - Accusation - “standing around doing nothing”
 - Notice no verbal binding contract, “pay them whatever is right”
 - What do you assume that should be?

Scripture - Parable of the Vineyard Workers

- **Matthew 20:1-16 NLT**, 6 “At five o’clock that afternoon he was in town again and saw some more people standing around. He asked them, ‘Why haven’t you been working today?’ 7 “They replied, ‘Because no one hired us.’ “The landowner told them, ‘Then go out and join the others in my vineyard.’
 - As you visualize these workers, what characteristics would give them?
 - “no one hired or wanted us”
 - We didn’t match what they considered a good worker to be to get their monies worth

Scripture - Parable of the Vineyard Workers

- **Matthew 20:1-16 NLT**, 8 “That evening he told the foreman to call the workers in and pay them, beginning with the last workers first. 9 When those hired at five o’clock were paid, each received a full day’s wage. 10 When those hired first came to get their pay, they assumed they would receive more. But they, too, were paid a day’s wage. 11 When they received their pay, they protested (*complained*) to the owner, 12 ‘Those people (*separate from us who are worthy*) worked only one hour, and yet you’ve paid them just as much as you paid us who worked all day in the scorching heat.’
 - What are they saying?
 - You are not being fair. Their expectations were not met

Scripture - Parable of the Vineyard Workers

- **Matthew 20:1-16 NLT**, 13 “He answered one of them, ‘Friend, I haven’t been unfair! Didn’t you agree to work all day for the usual wage? 14 Take your money and go. I wanted to pay this last worker the same as you. 15 Is it against the law for me to do what I want with my money? Should you be jealous because I am kind to others?’
 - Why are you angry with me?
 - Am I breaking any law?
 - Are you responding out of your abundance or is envy or jealousy running rampant in your heart?
- **Matthew 20:1-16 NLT**, 16 “So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last.”

Kingdom Values

- Day workers
- Opinions are all over the place on what this parable means
 - Jews are the original workers and Gentiles coming later
 - Warning about comparing ourselves and the work God gives us to others
 - Trusting God with the details
 - God is gracious to all

Kingdom Values

- To me, it is a parable about how God views people in His kingdom
 - Remember it follows right after the Rich Young Ruler
- If God went on Indeed.com looking for someone to fill a position in His Kingdom, He probably would not find a match
- It's not always the biggest, strongest, most educated, and confident person God uses, but the one who trembles at His word

Kingdom Values

- **Isaiah 66:2b NIV**, “These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.”
 - **MSG**, “But there is something I’m looking for: a person simple and plain, reverently responsive to what I say.”
- What does this parable say to us this morning about how God views people in His kingdom?

God wants the unwanted

- **Matthew 20:6-7 NLT**, 6 “At five o’clock that afternoon he was in town again and saw some more people standing around. He asked them, ‘Why haven’t you been working today?’ 7 “They replied, ‘Because no one hired us.’ “The landowner told them, ‘Then go out and join the others in my vineyard.’
 - Do you hear the sting of rejection in their response?
 - No one hired us, no one wanted us, no one thought we would be worthy of whatever they would pay
 - There is nothing in the parable that hints they were lazy or missed the 6:00AM selection

God wants the unwanted

- **Matthew 20:6-7 NLT**, 6 “At five o’clock that afternoon he was in town again and saw some more people standing around. He asked them, ‘Why haven’t you been working today?’ 7 “They replied, ‘Because no one hired us.’ “The landowner told them, ‘Then go out and join the others in my vineyard.’
 - Why do you think they were unwanted?
 - Maybe they were older, physical conditions hindering them, maybe they were from the wrong group of people, maybe someone had slandered their name, maybe they didn’t look like the others

God wants the unwanted

- John 4 tells us of a time Jesus approached an unwanted woman
 - **John 4:4-9 MSG**, 4-6 To get there, he had to pass through Samaria. He came into Sychar, a Samaritan village that bordered the field Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob's well was still there. Jesus, worn out by the trip, sat down at the well. It was noon.
 - **7-8** A woman, a Samaritan, came to draw water. Jesus said, "Would you give me a drink of water?" (His disciples had gone to the village to buy food for lunch.)
- **9** The Samaritan woman, taken aback, asked, "How come you, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (Jews in those days wouldn't be caught dead talking to Samaritans.)

God wants the unwanted

- The world is full of people who believe God (the Church) does not want, nor care for them
 - They believe the lie of Satan that they have nothing to offer God so why would He want them
 - Why would He want to give them a new life, accept them into His kingdom, give them hope?
 - “I have nothing to offer God but me!”, but that is exactly what God wants, You

God wants the unwanted

- I have a sense the landowner knew who could successfully work in his fields at each time right down to 1 hour
- Hear the landowner say, “I want you. Go out and join the others in my vineyard.”
- Hear God say to you this morning, “I want, desire you in My kingdom”.

God rewards a person's faithfulness

- God does not desire perfection from us because it is impossible, but He desires faithfulness
- Here are a group of people who showed up at 6:00 in the morning and still there at 5:00 in the afternoon seeking employment day after day
 - What does that say to you about these individuals?
 - They didn't throw up their hands during the day, complain to God because life was unfair and go home
 - They stayed during all the rejection, the heat of the day, they never gave up hope – why?

God rewards a person's faithfulness

- God was all they had, and they stayed until they received His blessing for their daily needs
 - **Matthew 6:11 NIV**, “Give us today our daily bread”

God rewards a person's faithfulness

- **Mark 12:41-44 NIV**, 41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. 42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.
 - 43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”
- **Matthew 20:16 NLT**, 16 “So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first (*in their own eyes*) will be last.”

It is God's preference to show uncommon compassion and grace

- This is a primary value or characteristic within the Kingdom of God – Uncommon compassion and grace
- **Romans 5:8 NIV**, 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 - This is uncommon love, compassion, grace
- Time to pay the day workers and the landowner started with the last
 - If he wanted not to have an issue, he would have started with the first
 - The last received the same pay as those who worked all day
 - They did not deserve from a human perspective the same pay

It is God's preference to show uncommon compassion and grace

- You may be quick to say, “That’s not good business” and you would be correct from a human perspective, but this is God’s kingdom
- What would those who worked all day think as the landowner moved up the list
 - Those who worked all day were irritated at the landowner why?
- **12 AMP** ‘These men who came last worked [only] one hour, and yet you have made them equal [in wages] to us who have carried [most of] the burden and [worked in] the scorching heat of the day.’

It is God's preference to show uncommon compassion and grace

- They didn't complain they had been cheated
 - They complained to the landowner, "You have made them [the one-hour workers] equal to us."
 - It was not the landowner's generosity or extravagance that makes them angry
- By dealing generously with a group of people that no other manager in town considered worth the trouble of hiring, the landowner has made a clear declaration of their value, their worth
- The landowner's undue kindness thus denies the full-day laborers the bonus they think they can claim: a sense of privilege or superiority

Two thieves on the cross

- **Luke 23:39-43 NIV**, 39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” 40 But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” 42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”
 - **43** Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
 - Hear Jesus tell this guilty thief, “I want you in my Kingdom and you will be there with Me today.”



Kingdom Values- Matthew 20:1-16