

Message Notes

Pastor Steve Durand

Date: February 5, 2012

Bible Focus: Matthew 20:1-16

Message Title: Is God Fair?

The Unfairness of Grace

- Our culture demands FAIRNESS at all times and in all respects.
- God does not always deal with us in a way that seems EQUITABLE.
- Grace gives us the proper perspective on life's INJUSTICES.

The Nature and Necessity of Grace

- It is God's EXTRAVAGANT goodness to the undeserving.
- It teaches us that God DOES FOR OTHERS what we would never do for them.
- We are all in a position of NEED.
- God dispenses GIFTS, not wages.
- It keeps us from looking down on OURSELVES.
- It offers us a FRESH START.

The Offer of Grace

- Everyone is INVITED.
- Everybody gets in THE SAME WAY.
- Everybody can meet the REQUIREMENT.

Life Group Message Discussion Questions

February 12, 2012

* Discussion Leaders: Feel free to pick one or two questions to go through – if answering all of them takes more time that is allotted.

1. Read Matthew 20:1-16. What does this parable reveal to us about the nature of God? About the nature of people? About the concept of fairness?
2. Which would you rather experience: grace or fairness? Be honest!
3. In his book *What's So Amazing About Grace*, Phillip Yancey says, "There is a simple cure for people who doubt God's love and question God's grace: to turn to the Bible and examine the kind of people God loves." What are some examples of individuals in the Scriptures whose lives validate Yancey's point?
4. How does the concept of fairness come into play in your daily life?
5. In verse 16 of this parable, Jesus said that "the last will be first, and the first will be last." Notice that He changed the order of this phrase in the last verse of the chapter immediately preceding (Matt. 19:30). Why do you think He did this? How does Peter's interaction in 19:27-30 tie into the Parable of the Workers in chapter 20?
6. Why do you think many people opt for religious systems based upon personal performance?
7. How would you answer someone who states that Christianity isn't fair?