

The Sovereignty of Grace

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 20.

B. Chapter 19:16-end is the context of this parable and this parable reinforces Jesus' answer (v.30) to Peter's question in Matthew 19:27.

II. Jesus teaches us about the generosity of God's grace.

A. God gives us more than we have earned. (Malachi 3:10)

B. The 12 hour workers received justice; the one hour workers received grace. (Deuteronomy 24:15)

C. The Bible continuously portrays God as gracious. We do not know the depths of our sin, but if we are willing to declare spiritual bankruptcy, we will see God pour out blessings on us. (Romans 8:32; Jeremiah 32:38-41)

III. God is sovereign in the dispensing of His grace. (Luke 7:2ff)

A. His reward is not based on our merit. We cannot deserve God's blessing, even if we could obey Him perfectly. (Luke 17:10)

B. God asserts His freedom from obligation to us. (Romans 11:35; Job 41:11, 32:1, 34:9, 39; Psalm 24:1; Acts 17; 1 Chronicles 29:14,16)

1. God has a right to do what He wants with His blessings. (Matthew 20:15)

2. We should not compare our blessings to other people's blessings. (Luke 4:23ff)

Application questions:

1. Which of the laborers do you naturally tend to identify with? Why?

2. How does the parable of the laborers display God's grace, God's sovereignty, and God's justice?

3. What emotions does the knowledge that God owes you nothing stir in you? Anger or resentment? Awe? Fear? Why is this knowledge important to our Christian lives?
