

Grace's Formula

Matthew 19:16—20:16
East Berlin Community Church
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September 8, 2019

Introduction

- Our deep concern for “fairness”
- We learn early on certain formulas for “success”
- We also learn that “life is not fair”
- The gripe of the elder brother in the parable of the Prodigal

Grace Formula

A. Man's Formula—Matthew 19:16-28

- a. The rich, young man looking for eternal life
 1. Jesus exposes his sin through the use of the Law
 2. The “work” is to believe in Christ—John 6:27-29
 3. Problem was not his riches, but the object of trust
 4. Salvation impossible for man, but possible with God
- b. Peter's question about rewards—vv. 24-28

B. Grace's Formula—Matthew 20:1-16

- a. Stated: *“Many who are first will be last, and the last first.”*
- b. Illustrated: The Parable of the Landowner
 1. Story explained
 - a) The local labor pool
 - b) Pay day, every day—Lev. 19:13; Deut. 24:15
 - c) Jewish work-day
 - d) The equal pay for unequal work?
 - e) The generous, gracious nature of the landowner.
 2. Spiritual significance
 - a) “Who” represents “what” in the story
 - b) All who come to faith in Christ receive the same gracious salvation, with no exceptions or variances.
 - c) Embodiment of GRACE: God's free and unmerited favor shown to guilty sinners
 3. Application. Because of Grace....
 - a) God sovereignly initiates and accomplished salvation.
 - b) God alone establishes the terms of salvation—Eph. 2:1-5, 8-9
 - 1) By Grace, not by works—Titus 3:5
 - 2) Through faith—Gal. 2:16; Rom. 3:28
 - 3) Works follow salvation—Eph. 2:10
 - c) God continues to call men into His kingdom.