

Resenting God's Generosity

Matthew 20:1-16

I. GOD'S GRACIOUS CHARACTER—*Beautifully Righteous*

A. God is Just. (2, 4, 13)—He does what is right by everyone.

1. He does what is fair. (4)—God never cheats or takes advantage of anybody.
2. He keeps His word. (2, 13)—He delivers on the promises He makes.

B. God is Sovereign. (14-15a)—He can do what He wants with what is His.

1. Everything is His.
2. He may distribute it as He chooses.

C. God is Patient. (13)—He graciously engages His inferiors in conversation.

1. He answers. God does not owe us an explanation but he wants us to understand.
2. He offers friendship. He answers gently, calling the man “friend.”

D. God is Generous. (15b; Jam 1:17)—**abundant, surprising, lavish kindness**

1. God does not owe us anything. God is pleased to obligate Himself for our benefit.
2. He gives each of us better than we deserve. He pays more than we could earn.

II. OUR SINFUL NATURE (9-12)—*ridiculously, idolatrously self-centered and petty*

Humanity's orientation in reality went badly astray at the Fall.

A. We are Ungrateful. (Isa 26:12; 1 Cor 4:7) We have a vastly over-estimated opinion of ourselves, abilities and usefulness to God.

B. We are Easily Offended. (12) We are trying to find our place and establish our importance by comparing ourselves to *other people*.

C. **We are Envious of others.** (15b) **Self-centered, idolatrous vexation with everything**

1. **Displeasure in God** (Mat 22:37-38)—breaking the Greatest Commandment
2. **Ill-Will toward our Neighbor** (Mat 22:39)—breaking 2nd Greatest Commandment
3. **Misery to ourselves**—nothing even slightly profitable or enjoyable in this sin

III. **THE LESSONS OF THE STORY**

A. **Salvation is all of Grace.** (Rom 3:10, 23) ***We don't deserve it and we can't earn it.***

1. **The Jews and the Gentiles**—Jesus opens the kingdom of God to include Johnny-Come-Lately Gentiles.
2. **The Ages of the Church**—There is still important work to do, and God is raising up great leaders in every generation.
3. **The Stages of a Person's Life** (Heb 3:7, 15; 4:7)—A person may enter the service of God at any age.

B. **We are called to Work.** (6-7) ***It doesn't save us; it is a benefit of being saved.***

1. **The work itself is a blessing.** We are unemployable; God lets us to work for Him!
 - a. **Everyone needs a Respectable Job.** (*something productive to do*)
 - b. **Everyone needs a Meaningful Cause.** (*something beyond self to serve*)
2. **Working in God's Vineyard is the best job ever!**
 - a. **God is the Best Employer.**
 - b. **Building His kingdom is the Noblest Cause.**