

# Sermon Notes – April 7, 2019

## Review

- ⇒ Throughout Matthew’s gospel, Jesus preaches the arrival of the Kingdom of Heaven. His message is two-fold: Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. But in Jesus’ Kingdom, the “righteous,” pious, wealthy, and well-connected usually miss out on the Kingdom and the tax collectors, prostitutes, and sinners are welcomed. Entrance to the Kingdom of heaven requires a recognition of one’s need for repentance.
- ⇒ In our text three weeks ago, Jesus told his disciples that, in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, that must become like little children. Entrance to the Kingdom of Heaven requires humility and a childlike dependence on God.
- ⇒ In last week’s text, Jesus encountered a rich young ruler who, although he claimed to have kept the whole of the law, could not turn from his possessions to follow Christ. Jesus exposes the failure of humans to merit the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom can only be received by those who turn from their attempts to achieve worth, merit, and value themselves to Christ.

## Today’s Text: Matthew 20:1-18

In today’s text, Jesus confronts his disciples’ (and our) assumptions about the economy of the Kingdom of Heaven. In the world’s economy your merit is based in what you do, who you know, or who your parents were. The Kingdom of Heaven, however, operates purely by grace. Although this is indeed good news, our hearts have a difficult time accepting this. We want to withhold for ourselves some of the glory, some of the credit, or some of the merit for our salvation. Jesus’ message is as radical: It’s all grace!

## The Economy of the Kingdom of Heaven

- ⇒ In God’s economy, “\_\_\_\_\_” is based purely in grace. God does not bring people into his kingdom based in who they are or how much “value” they add to His Kingdom. Being a member of the kingdom is pure and unadulterated \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 20:1-28  
Do You Begrudge the Mercy of God?  
Matthew Richey

- ⇒ In God’s economy, “\_\_\_\_\_” are based purely in grace; they are not earned nor merited. You cannot work your way into the kingdom or into God’s favor. All that we have in Christ is based in \_\_\_\_\_, not ours.
- ⇒ Although the truth of God’s unmerited gift of grace is a wonderful doctrine, it is difficult for us to grasp because God’s economy is not only so different from the world’s economy – it is, in the eyes of the world, \_\_\_\_\_! In the world, you are hired based on your merit and are compensated based on the value added to your employer’s bottom line. In the Kingdom, everything is a gift. Being a grace-filled community means operating according to a different set of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Greatness in the Kingdom of Heaven

- ⇒ For the third time in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus predicts his death and resurrection, but the disciples’ request shows that they understand neither Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_ nor the values of His Kingdom.
- ⇒ The disciples want to be great in the kingdom but the path to greatness in the Kingdom goes through the \_\_\_\_\_. Although they believe they are able to follow in Jesus’ steps, they’ve yet to grasp the implications of doing so.
- ⇒ Greatness in Kingdom of this World is achieved by attainment of \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. Greatness in the Kingdom of this World operates by exercising \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ over others. In the Kingdom of Heaven, greatness is achieved by \_\_\_\_\_ up of yourself and using your power and authority to \_\_\_\_\_ and benefit others.

## Responding to God’s Word: Communion

- ⇒ The act of receiving Communion is a reminder of the terms of our salvation. We receive the Bread and the Cup as we receive the Body and Blood of Christ. It is an unmerited and undeserved gift to be received with gratitude.
- ⇒ As we receive the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ, ponder what this means for we conduct ourselves as members of the Christ’s Kingdom. If our King gave His life as a ransom for us, How are we to follow in His steps?
- ⇒ As **we** receive the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ, ponder what this means for how we interact with one another. If entrance to the Kingdom is by grace, not by works; if we do not merit our own salvation, but receive it as an unmerited gift, how ought this to affect our interactions with each other? What kind of community ought we to be?

# Community Group Notes

## Getting Started

Besides your salvation, what a time in your life that you have been the recipient of something costly or valuable that you did not in any way deserve or earn? Do you find it easier to give a costly gift or to receive one? Why do you think that is?

## Talking It Through

1. Review the sermon from Sunday: Read the entire text (Matthew 20:1-18) and review the main sermon points from your notes. What was it about?
2. What is your gut reaction to the parable of the workers in the vineyard? Do you more identify with the workers who had worked the whole day or those who have received a full day's wage for an hour's pay? Enter in the experiences of both sets of workers. How would you respond (both internally and externally)?
3. A question many people ask is about whether there are rewards in heaven. Regardless of the correct answer to this question, why do you believe people ask this question? Is it wrong to work for rewards? Why or why not?
4. Why were the disciples so slow to understand Jesus' very clear statements regarding his impending death and resurrection? How does Jesus' mission compare or contrast with worldly expectations for leaders?

## Taking It Further & Taking It Home

5. Focus in on 20:25-28 for a few moments. What does it look like to make yourself a servant in **your** context at work, home, church, or in your neighborhood? What does "servant-leadership" look like?
6. What does it look like to live in a community of grace? How should our understanding of salvation by grace apart from works affect the relationships with our friends? Neighbors? Family members? Small group members?
7. Communion is a reminder that our salvation has been accomplished by the body and blood of Christ being given and shed on our behalf. It is a reminder that our salvation is a gift for which we should be grateful not wages that we must earn. What are some habits or practices that we can incorporate into daily lives that can remind us of God's grace and move us to gratitude and service?

## Time to PRAY

(Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs.

### **Next Sunday Worship: April 14, 2019**

"A Good Question with a BAD Motive"

(Matthew 20:19-)

Pastor Jay Mosser

**Answer Key:** ▪ hiring ▪ grace ▪ wages ▪ His work ▪ scandalous ▪ value ▪ mission ▪ cross ▪ possessions ▪ status ▪ power ▪ authority ▪ giving ▪ serving ▪