

Discussion Guide
Here & Now: wk3 God's Generosity
March 3, 2024



Big Idea

We need to view people, our circumstances, and God's sovereignty through Kingdom eyes.



Icebreaker

Share an observation &/or application from this past weeks reading plan.



Discussion Questions

1. With what things, or in what area of your life, do you struggle with an attitude of “*why me?*” regarding something you see as bad happening to you. With what things, or in what area of your life, do you struggle with an attitude of “*why not me?*” regarding things not happening for you that you wish were? What are some things at the root of these attitudes, which are ones...mind you...that are difficult to walk through life with? Read Matthew 19:29-30. Share thoughts with one another on this reading and how they can influence the attitudes discussed above.
2. Read Matthew 20:1-7. In this parable who is the landowner and who are the workers? What implications are those answers? How do they impact your life today? In the parable, what do you think the “work” symbolizes for someone who is a citizen of the Kingdom of God, here & now? How much work is there to do as a citizen in the Kingdom of God? How does realizing that make you feel? How do you know which of that work is specifically for you to do?
3. Read Matthew 20:8-12. Can you say ‘*AWKWARD?*?!’ Describe what is creating the tension in this scene and who is the tension between? What could the result of such unaddressed tension be? Do you have a specific worldly situation to share where this kind of tension was present? What are spiritual or faith-related ways that this tension may present itself?
4. Read Matthew 20:13-16. Is the “owner” in this reading in the right by saying what he does in response to those who are complaining? What is God communicating to us through the response of the “owner” seen here? Share any personal realizations you have as you reflect upon this (including who God is and who you are). FILL IN THE BLANKS: *God's g_____sity transcends human ideas of f_____ness. We need to vie G_____ with K_____ eyes, not earthly eyes.*
5. This parable is only included in the Gospel (biography of Jesus' life) according to Matthew. Why may this make sense knowing that it is predominately agreed upon (by Biblical scholars) that Matthew initially wrote to primarily communicate about Jesus being the Messiah to Jews? In other words, what would Matthew's message to the Jews primarily be in this passage? Is that message still relevant even to us, the Church, today. And if so, how?



Concluding Question

Thinking about some of the points of the sermon: 1) God is debtor to no one. 2) God gives us a reward that we did not earn. 3) God's Kingdom is a Kingdom of unearned generosity. 4) God distributes His rewards by grace & sovereignty, and not out of debt...is there one of those statements that are most impactful for you & why?



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer

Pray for success with our Heart Check Donation Drive announced this past Sunday.