

## **GRUMBLING ABOUT GENEROSITY**

Mt. 20:1-16 (Mt. 19)

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. Drama of the family waiting for the father to come home after being gone all day looking for work.....comes home with an exciting story about being hired.. had stopped off and bought food and gave some away on the way home.
2. What would our Federal government and local governments have to say about that? -the unions, attorneys...other employees
3. Why did Jesus tell this parable? (After the Rich Young Ruler left)
4. Jesus told about the rich man and the camel going through the eye of a needle. -in those days, if one was rich, it was because God was honoring you..if poor God was punishing you....**IF A RICH MAN COULDN'T GET INTO HEAVEN, THEN WHO COULD?**
5. Peter reminded the Lord that they had given up everything to follow Him.... -Peter was wanting something for his "sacrifices" -There will be rewards, but very differently from what we expect.

### **I. WHERE ARE YOU IN THIS PARABLE ABOUT THE LABORER?**

1. Some have worked only ONE hour....some SIX... some TWELVE
2. Look at our MISSIONARIES, what chance do we have compared to them?
3. Look at our BI-VOCATIONAL PASTORS, How do we stand a chance?
4. Look at that SINGLE MOTHER raising her children by herself...How do we measure up against her?
5. Sometimes we see ourselves as the TWELVE hour worker: 30 yrs in the Nursery... VBS..S.S...Choir..Committees..listened to dry, dusty, boring sermons for years.. tithe, give extra for everything...dragged our children screaming and hollering into church every time the doors were open..... -been there, done it all...are pillars of the church..without us the church would have to close up.
6. THEN...in come these strangers...NEVER worked in the nursery..never sat through dull, boring LONG sermons..never served on a committee..don't know a prelude from an offertory...never did VBS...think John 3:16 is the restroom on the third floor. **THEY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING** about church. -BUT...when they responded to the invitation of God to believe in Jesus, they are going to get the same thing as US....**IS THIS FAIR??????**

### **II. WE CAN BE GRACIOUS OR WE CAN GRIPE**

1. Sometimes it's HARD to celebrate God's goodness in someone else's life. -We feel we are more deserving.... after all, we've worked those long hard 12 hours.....not just a SINGLE hour..
2. It's HARD sometimes to celebrate God's goodness when it has been extended to SOMEONE else.

3. It's EASY to be bad when God is good....remember JONAH...in the end he cried:  
 "I KNEW IT...I KNEW IT...I knew you'd forgive those evil people...He was mad!  
 -It's HARD to be grateful when God is as good to others when we don't think they deserve God's goodness as much as we do.
4. For some, it's a PERSONALITY thing...some folks just aren't gracious because they are just that way....compliment them (suit or dress)....that old thing...got it at a yard sale...etc...Wedding...won't last...Baby...wait and see.
5. **SOME PEOPLE HAVE A HARD TIME BEING HAPPY!**

### **III. GOD HAS COME TO CHANGE US**

1. God has come to make us gracious, thankful and happy.  
 -God has done His part (accepts all who come to Him through Jesus, gives to all equally)  
 -Our part is to ACCEPT His offer and then BE GRACIOUS AND THANKFUL that He ever accepted us in the first place....ACCEPTANCE is ALL we can do...NOBODY in any way, can make any claim on God.
2. There is no way any of us can ever look down on or complain about ANYBODY who hasn't worked the same hours as we have....Our Father is gracious to ALL who come to Him....NO MATTER WHEN THAT MAY BE!

### **CONCLUSION**

1. We can spend our grumbling, envying, complaining and griping - OR - we can live our lives in gratitude and be gracious and be happy that ANYBODY experiences God's generosity.
2. There are a lot of OUGHTS and SHOULD'S we ought and should do:  
 -tithe, give, support our budget, give time and talents to God's work..  
 -we know all this, BUT, IF AND WHEN we finally realize what God has done us....There's not a single thing we can do to merit God's favor (or anybody else) THEN we WILL BE GRACIOUS and do all these things.
3. If you could give ONE gift away to someone, what would it be?