

God's Amazing Gift of Salvation

John 3:16

Matthew 20:1-16

- I. ¹⁶For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16
- a. God's Love is not measurable
- For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. Psalm 103:11-13
- b. God's Love demonstrates His Sovereignty
- **17**And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. **18**And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* He might have the preeminence. Colossians 1:17-18
- c. God's Love is seen in His Longsuffering.
- The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9
- II. The story of the Vineyard Workers is an explanation of the Gift of Salvation. Matthew 20:1-16
- a. Salvation belong to God and He will give as He Pleases.
1. The Agreement: And when He(The Lord of the Vineyard) had agreed with the labourers

for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. Matthew 20:2

2. The Additional Workers: (The Lord of the Vineyard hire more workers) And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. Matthew 20:4

3. The Argument: (There will always be those who think they are privileged) But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. Matthew 24:10-12

4. The Answer: Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? Matthew 20:15

b. God is just and will pay what is right.

1. Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Isaiah 45:21

2. They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive. Matthew 20:7

3. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou

faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Revelation 2:10

- c. The bottom line is The gift of God is eternal life. He gives the gift of salvation freely to all who ask, no matter how late in their lives nor how sinful they have been.

III. The Question: Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day... Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? Matthew 20:12-15

a. Recognize that God IS THE OWNER!

1. The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Psalm 24:1
2. Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against thee: I am God, even thy God... For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. Psalm 50:7-10
3. As before He asserted His justice, so here His sovereignty; Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with my own? Note, [1.] God is the Owner of all good; His propriety in it is absolute, sovereign, and unlimited. [2.] He may therefore give or withhold His blessings, as he pleases. What we have, is not our own, and therefore it is not lawful for us to do what we will with it; but what God has, is His own; and this will justify Him, First, In all the disposals of His providence; when God takes from us that which was dear to us, and which we could ill spare, we must silence our discontents with this; May He not do what he will with his own? *Matthew Henry Commentary*

- b. Be careful of those always stirring up trouble
 1. These six [things] doth the LORD hate: yea, seven [are] an abomination unto him... and he that soweth discord among brethren, Proverbs 6:16-19
 2. But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. 2 Timothy 2:23
 3. "You appeal to *justice*, and by that your mouth is shut; for the sum you agreed for is paid you. Your case being disposed of, with the terms I make with other laborers you have nothing to do; and to grudge the benevolence shown to others, when by your own admission you have been honorably dealt with, is both unworthy envy of your neighbor, and discontent with the goodness that engaged and rewarded you in his service at all." Commentary by DAVID BROWN Blueletterbible.com

IV. Our Salvation is the direct result of God's Grace

- a. God's Grace reminds us that God's favor is a gift. **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Ephesians 2:8** Remember the "problem" in this text. It is not the injustice of a mean and cruel landowner. The problem is the scandal of a gracious and loving farmer. Verse 15 asks the question, "Are you envious because I am generous?" The charge of unfairness was not grounded in a love for justice but in the selfish assumption that the extra pay they wanted, was pay they deserved. We should be careful to not get to a place that we demand grace.
- b. God's Grace keeps us from looking down on ourselves. **For all have sinned, and come**

short of the glory of God; Romans 3:23 How many of you have ever struggled with feelings of incompetence? Have you ever experienced discontentment? Ever wished for a greater gift or a more important ministry? Have you ever felt inferior to others in the church and thus less important?

- c. God's Grace makes us equal to everyone else. **But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name: John 1:12**

The workers' complaint in verse 12 fascinates me, "You have made them equal to us." The all-day workers did not complain about their wages because they knew their pay was generous. They were upset because they wanted to be superior. They started by comparing themselves with others. This then led to coveting, which led to complaining, which led ultimately to criticizing. It would help if we stop comparing ourselves with others.

- d. God's Grace offers us a fresh start. **Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new 2 Corinthians 5:17**

The Christian life is really a series of new beginnings. That's what grace is all about. No one is first, and no one is last. I'm not better than you and you're no better than me. You're no worse than I am and I'm no worse than you are. We're all covered by the grace of Christ.

Amazing Grace

By John Newton

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I
have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.