

# Sermon Study Guide – September 24th, 2023

## *"A Story of Unfair Generosity"*

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ Does God ever do anything that seem unfair to you? Are there times he seems to treat others better than he should? Are there times he seems to treat you worse than he should?
- ◆ If God ever does anything that may be considered unfair, how is he unfair? Is there a pattern to how he is unfair?

2) Today's Message: Matthew 20:1-16 (see full text in bulletin)

<sup>8</sup> "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' <sup>9</sup> "The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. <sup>12</sup> 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' <sup>13</sup> "But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?' <sup>14</sup> Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup> Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup> "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

3) What does God want you to hear today?

*Throughout the sermon, consider...*

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:

*Answer the following questions if it helps you follow the sermon...*

1. Is the master in the Parable unfair? Given his generosity, how might you answer with a “no” *and* a “yes”?
2. How does this parable correspond to us and our relationship with God?
3. If God were 100% fair (above anything else), what would that mean for us in our lives?
4. How did Jesus perfectly demonstrate that “the first shall become last”?
5. Why should we appreciate the work that God has given to us (rather than complain about it)?
6. In what ways can God’s “unfair generosity” rub off on us?

#### 4) Taking it Home:

*Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week’s truths:*

**Monday:** *review* Jonah 3:10-4:11, Ps 115

**Tuesday:** *read/review* Romans 9

**Wednesday:** Amos 5

**Thursday:** Ephesians 1

**Friday:** Daniel 9:1-19

**Saturday:** *review* Matthew 20:1-16