

Matthew 20 –12 January 2020

“When Grace Changes Everything”

Introduction

In Matt 19, Jesus had just come from Galilee down to Perea and on His way to Jerusalem to finish His ministry

Jesus came to give

He came to give compassion and help

He came to give understanding that the scriptures point to Him

He came to give His life as a ransom to win us back from the authority of Satan!

Chapter 21 next week is when Christ comes into Jerusalem for the last week of His earthly ministry and life.

And so chapter 20 is Jesus’ last great attempt to point the disciples toward what matters most!

It’s when grace changes everything!!!

Today we’ll see 3 things about God’s grace that change everything!

1st Thing: Grace changes everything when we realize we don't deserve God's favor (Vs 1-16)

Read Vs 1-7

1. Vs 2 – a penny or pence is *denarius* – this is about a day's wage for a laborer
2. Times of the day – 3rd hour is 9am and so on
3. What's the agreed deal?
 - a. A penny for those that will work all day.
 - b. “Whatever is right” for all the others

Read Vs 8-12

1. He started the payout with those who works the least number of hours that day.
2. Why were they mad?
 - a. B/c they were wronged? No!
 - b. B/c others didn't deserve it, yet received?

Read Vs 13-16

1. Vs 15 – The reason others get mad at God's grace towards others is jealousy (They want it!)

2. Vs 16 – God may reward in gracious unexpected ways.
 - a. In all cases, He won't be wronging anyone, but gracing some even more.
 - b. This applies to this life and in heaven.

Further application

1. Jeff at work example
 - a. His primary rejection of Christ is b/c he can't accept that some very evil people in prison can just accept Christ and be forgiven.
 - b. This doesn't seem fair to him.
 - c. He's right, it's God's amazing grace!
2. What if those who worked all day never found out what the others were paid. How would they act toward the land owner?
 - a. They would have been fine.
 - b. When we focus on what others have or get, we lose sight of the greatness of God.
 - c. When we focus on what God has given us, though we don't deserve it, then we're in awe!!

3. Turn to Luke 5:3-9
 - a. Looking at Jesus' grace makes us see we're not deserving of His rewards.

2nd Thing: Grace changes everything when we realize we can't earn God's favor (Vs 17-23)

Read Vs 17-19

1. He's continually trying to get their focus on the work of His death on the cross.
2. All of Christ's service, ministry and work is to offer His reward to us!
3. Notice vs 19 – He shall rise again.
 - a. Read Hosea 13:14
 - b. Ransom = to sever or release
 - c. He's doing all this to give to us what we can't earn for ourselves.
 - i. A release from the authority of Satan, sin and death over us.

Read Vs 20-23

1. They think they can drink of the cup of God's wrath. They say, "We are able".
2. Their primary problem is that they think they have the power and ability within themselves to save themselves.
3. When we come to the end of ourselves is when we rely on God's provision and grace to answer our greatest needs.
4. Once James and John are filled with the Spirit, they'll declare salvation thru Christ's work.
 - a. James
 - i. He's martyred in Act 12:2 by Herod
 - b. Read Rev 1:5-6 – John writes
 - i. It's God that washed us from our sins

3rd Thing: Grace changes everything when we realize how to give it out to others (Vs 24-28)

Read Vs 24-25

1. The idea of fighting for advancement is a carnal, fleshly worldly idea.
2. They're always striving to be the authority and the boss.
3. They're striving to have people "under them" so others can serve them.

Read Vs 26-28

1. The way to greatest in the Kingdom is to be the best servant.
2. Even as Christ has role-modeled for us.
3. Turn to I John 3:16-18
4. The way to change lives is to look for ways to give to others when they don't deserve it.
 - a. Give to others that need help
 - b. Serve others when they can't pay you back

The chapter will now end with an illustration of the very principles that it just taught (Vs 29-34)

Read Vs 29-30

1. Contradictions?
 - a. Matt 20 – 2 blind men, Mar 10 – blind Bartimaeus, Luk 18 – 1 blind man
 - b. They all go together, different accounts just emphasis different points.
2. He's not crying for justice, he crying for more than he deserves.

Read Vs 31

1. They were willing to be undignified, if that's what it took to be with Jesus.
2. A public confession of needing Christ is not popular with the masses

Read Vs 32

1. Mar 10 adds details to this part of the story.
2. Turn to Mar 10:49-51
 - a. He throws off the beggar's clothes – this is faith, knowing he's not going to need them again!

Read Vs 33-34

1. Jesus gave them unmerited help.
2. These men didn't deserve His grace and couldn't earn His grace, yet Christ gave it.
 - a. This is what changes lives.
3. Luk 18 adds details to this part of the story.
4. Read Luk 18:43
 - a. Grace changed everything for this man when Jesus gave it to him!
 - b. He glorified God and it was contagious!

Conclusion –

We've seen 3 things about God's grace that changes everything.

1. When we realize we don't deserve God's favor
 - a. We either live in jealousy towards others or gratitude toward God's grace.
2. When we realize we can't earn God's favor
 - a. Rest in God's grace, you don't have to earn a right standing in the courts of heaven or in the courts of the church.
3. When we realize how to give it out to others
 - a. Giving to others what is deserved will never change a life. Giving extra love and grace will.

When we experience these realities is....

When grace will change everything!!!