

# Together In Faith

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM  
OF GOD  
AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS  
AND ALL THESE THINGS  
WILL BE ADDED UNTO YOU  
Matthew 6:33



## Prayers needed

Judy Harkins,  
Jessica, Sia, Larry John's  
Aunt Jeanie, Norma Martin  
Alberto & Esmerelda,

Prayer request?

Email Susan

[sleighm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sleighm@sbcglobal.net)

## Bible Study Opportunities:

### BIBLE STUDY

Every Sunday  
At 9:15 am @ CCC

### WEDNESDAY WORD

Every Wednesday  
At 7pm on ZOOM

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

First Friday of the Month  
At 6:30 pm in Cafe and on ZOOM

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Last Tuesday of the Month  
At 7 pm on ZOOM

## Scriptures from today

Psalms 91:4

Psalms 18

Isaiah 43:2

Matthew 20: 1-16

Matthew 19:27

Matthew 20:26

2 Corinthians 6:2

Matthew 9:37

Matthew 19:27-29

Matthew 6:33



## Announcements

Jan 27 @ 7pm Men's Bible Study on Zoom

Feb 6th @ 6:30pm Women's Bible study in Cafe & zoom

Feb 14<sup>th</sup> - Ladies Lunch Time and Date TBD

## A Reflection on Sunday's Word

Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16)

The Core Message: Grace Over Merit

The central theme is that God's Kingdom operates on a different economy than the world. While we often demand "fairness" based on hours worked or effort exerted, God provides based on His generosity.

- ✱ The Equal Reward: Whether called at dawn or the eleventh hour, every worker receives the same "denarius." This symbolizes that salvation and God's favor are gifts of grace, not wages to be earned.
- ✱ Obedience over Seniority: God does not measure us by the length of our service, but by our willingness to say "yes" when called.

### Lessons from the Marketplace

The text breaks down the symbolism of the landowner and the laborers:

- ✱ The Idle Life: Standing in the marketplace symbolizes a life without purpose. God "persistently seeks" people to move them from idleness into meaningful work.
- ✱ The Different Stages: People are called at early, mid, and late stages of life. This reminds us that it is never too late to begin, but it also warns that the opportunity ends when life ends (the "12th hour").
- ✱ The Comparison Trap: A major hurdle in spiritual growth is comparing our blessings or paths to others. The text emphasizes that serving God is a privilege to be embraced, not a contest to be won.

### Redefining Greatness and Service

Following Jesus is presented as a path of servanthood rather than a climb to power.

- ✱ The Shift in Perspective: True greatness in the Kingdom is found in service (Matthew 20:26).
- ✱ The Sacrifice: Humans often resist the sacrifices required for the Kingdom because we don't fully see the "big picture."
- ✱ Finding Balance: In an unbalanced world, balance is found by "Seeking first the Kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33).

**The Takeaway:** It's okay to struggle with these concepts or disagree with the "unfairness" of it all. The text acknowledges that we don't always understand God's ways, but the call remains the same: **Follow Him.**

## Contact information

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