**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW**

**LESSON 20 - Parable of the Laborers; Ambition, Blind Men Healed**

**Matthew 20:1-34**

**DAYS ONE & TWO -** Read Matthew 20:1-16 (Parable of the Laborers)

1. What is *the kingdom of heaven* compared to in verse 1, teaching us that God is never unfair or unjust?

Answer here

2. a. What agreement (contract) did the landowner make with the workers, he first hired, about their pay for a day’s work?

Answer here

 b. What did he promise to give to those he hired later, according to verses 4 and 7?

Answer here

3. a. As the day laborers continued to be hired throughout the day until the 11th hour (5pm), how do we know that those who were hired last, in verses 6-7, were not just lazy?

Answer here

 b. What does Deuteronomy 24:14-15 say about these kinds of workers?

Answer here

4. Back in Matthew 20:8-9, what happened *when evening came*?

Answer here

5. Then what happened in Matthew 20:11-12, after those who worked all day *supposed they would receive more;* but *likewise received each, a denarius,* just like the rest?

Answer here

6. How does this fit in with what Jesus said, back in Matthew 19:30?

Answer here

7. Coming back to Matthew 20:13-14, how did the landowner answer these workers who thought they deserved more for working all day in the heat?

Answer here

8. a. What did the landowner say about being lawful, in Matthew 20:15a?

Answer here

 b. What does Romans 9:14-15 add about this picture of God?

Answer here

 c. When Jesus asked if their *eye was evil* for not thinking God was being fair, list any sin or sins these ones who were complaining might have been committing.

Answer here

9. **Challenge Question:** As we consider these different groups of laborers, who received justice and who received God’s unmerited grace?

Answer here

10. As *the last will be first, and the first last* in verse 16,how is God’s grace the great equalizer, making every faithful believer equally acceptable in Christ? Read Romans 3:23 and 6:23.

Answer here

**DAYS THREE & FOUR -** Read Matthew 20:17-28 (Instruction About Jesus’ Death and Ambition)

1. As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, what did He say to His disciples about His coming death?

Answer here

2. a. When the mother of Zebedee’s sons, James and John, knelt before Jesus to *ask something from Him*, what did she say when He asked her what she wished in verse 21?

Answer here

b. What does Mark 10:35 add about who asked this question?

Answer here

**EXTRA INFO:** In Matthew 20:22-23, the words, *baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with,* are omitted in the best manuscripts.

3. What did Jesus say, in verse 22, about them wanting to be great in the Kingdom with Him?

Answer here

4. How does Matthew 26:39 tell us just how difficult this *cup* would be?

Answer here

5. After the disciples said they were *able to drink the cup that* Jesus *was about to drink,* what did He say to them in verse 23, and who would decide where they would sit in the kingdom?

Answer here

6. How is Acts 12:2 an example of James having to *drink the cup* for the sake of Christ?

Answer here

7. How did the other ten disciples react, in verse 24, showing they were all guilty of pride?

Answer here

8. *But* who did Jesus say the disciples should not be like in verse 25?

Answer here

9. Then, how did Jesus teach them, in verses 26-27, the style of true greatness and leadership?

Answer here

10. How did *the Son of Man come,* according to verse 28?

Answer here

**DAY FIVE -** Read Matthew 20:29-34 (The Blind Men Recognize the King)

1. As Jesus and His disciples went through Jericho, with a great multitude following Him, who did He encounter?

Answer here

2. What did they call Jesus, showing they could see more than most people at that time?

Answer here

3. How did the crowds reprimand them, and how did they react in verse 31?

Answer here

4. As Jesus *stood still* and asked them what they wanted Him to do for them, what did they ask for in verse 33?

Answer here

5. What trait do we see once again in Jesus, as He *touched their eyes, immediately* giving them sight, *and they followed Him*?

Answer here

**DISCUSSION:** Were you shocked at the lack of response to what Jesus had just told His disciples about His coming death? It seems all they cared about was their greatness in His kingdom. Today we still live in a world that is all about “what’s in it for me.” Many churches today ignore the gospel truth and have embraced this idea of health, wealth, and prosperity. In the days to come, we may be persecuted for the name of Christ. How do Matthew 5:10-12, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, and 1 Peter 4:12-14 help us to stand strong in these times?

Answer here