

“The Parables # 7”

Matt. 20: 1 - 16

(Parable of the workers in the Vineyard)

- Jesus says in V1... *“The kingdom of heaven is like...”*
- Literally. *This is how the kingdom of heaven works...*
- As I read this, I see two important lessons revealed in this parable!

1. Human nature... V's 10-12
2. The nature of God... V's 13-15

- When I was a young Christian and I read this, it upset me.
- **I thought...** that's right those that work harder and longer deserve more.
- We complain about those that have more and didn't have to work for it.
- Those born with a silver spoon in their mouths...
- *Human nature is to kick a man when he's down!*

Death bed or Jail house conversions?

- **But Gods nature...** is to forgive, to be gracious and merciful.
- To come along side when we fail.
- **To give us what we do not deserve.**

[I never fully understood this parable, until I realized that none of us deserve God's grace, we all deserve judgement, we are all sinners.]

Romans 2:1-4 (ESV)

“Therefore, you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgement on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgement of God rightly falls on those that practice such things. Do you suppose, O man, you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself, that you will escape the judgement of God? Or do you presume on the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?”

(KJV) *“The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance...”*

Gen. 6... 9 (Story of Noah, the wickedness of man, the Ark, the flood, the aftermath and his three sons...)

- **Ham:** *Represents human nature... exposes shame of others, short comings, effort to lift ourselves up, Lord - I thank you I’m not like him / her.*
- **Shem & Japheth:** *Represent the nature of God... covers our shame, grace and mercy, True love – covers a multitude of sins. (Forgives)*