

The Moral of the Story: The Workers in the Vineyard

April 6-7 2019

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **The Moral of the Story**
- What is a parable? Why did Jesus talk in parables?
 - o Explain spiritual things by using common experiences.
 - o Seekers vs Stiff Necked. Be a seeker! God wants you to find Him!!
- **This Week: The Workers in the Vineyard (11th Hour)**
- Another very famous parable of Jesus about people getting to work!
 - o Context: The Rich Young Ruler. (Matthew 19:16-26)
 - o Conclusion is **Matthew 19:27-30**.
 - Who is Jesus talking to? Not the masses but the 12 Disciples!!
 - Great promises with one caveat. The parable explains the caveat.
- **Matthew 20:1-16**
 - o Obvious interpretation: The grace of God is for you wherever you are in life!! It's not too late!!
 - Don't believe the lie that you are too far gone! Today is the day of salvation!!
 - o Primary interpretation in context: If you been following Jesus for a long time, guard your heart!
 - 1) Don't let entitlement creep in! It's not about you. Be a servant.
 - The closer you are to Jesus, the farther away you park!! **Matthew 20:25-28**
 - 2) Rejoice in the grace of God for them!
 - Catch the heart of God! Avoid "older brother" syndrome.
 - Your job is to make room for them, not hinder them in any way.
 - 3) Trust that God is not withholding any good thing from you! **Matt 19:29, Mark 10:29-31**
 - FOMO. Don't fear missing out on the world! Fear missing out on the things of God!
Romans 6:19-22.
 - Working in the vineyard is the best place to be!! Don't let bad religion deceive you!
- What about those who say "no" to God?
 - o The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard only talks about those who find out late in life.
 - o Another parable: **Matthew 21:28-32**
 - The grace of God is for the tax collectors and prostitutes too!
 - "changed his mind" means repent!
 - But the ones who talk the talk but don't walk the walk don't fool God!!
 - You need to actually follow Christ to be a follower of Christ!
 - o Don't bury your talent!
 - Couple of "woes" from Matt 23: **Matthew 23:25-28.**
- Your best life is when you serve the Lord now!
 - o Compare Rich Young Ruler if he got saved 1st hour vs 11th hour. (Who knows if he got saved?)
 - He would have missed walking with Jesus. He doesn't even get a name!
- What I hope you get out of this:
 - o 1) Rest in the grace of God,
 - o 2) Faithfully serve in the vineyard.
- **Hebrews 12:1-3**
- Pray for each other before you finish up!