

Small Group Questions | March 18th, 2018

Kingdom Stories – The Workers ([Matthew 19:30-20:16](#))

Sermon Recap: The parable of the workers in the vineyard **reverses our focus from the work of the Lord to the Lord of the work**. It offers us 3 vital focus points – the nature of the master, the nature of the work and the nature of the reward which substitutes our guarantees for God’s grace. Jesus calls us to abide in him and trust in his promise.

Hook: *These questions can help encourage conversation.*

1. Share a time when you thought you had a guarantee, but it did not meet your expectations.
2. How do you relate with Peter’s asking for a guarantee at the end of Matt 19?

Look: *Read the sermon passage. Answer the following textual questions.*

3. How do the first workers reveal their focus?
4. How does the master treat both groups of workers? How do the master’s actions reveal his nature?
5. The parable is bookended by Matt. 19:30 and Matt. 20:16. How does this parable of reversal encourage us to live in the *here and now* Kingdom?

Took: *Applying the message to our lives.*

6. Take this diagnostic check:
 1. What happens in your gut when you hear the master’s questions? (“*Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Do you begrudge my generosity?*”)
 2. Do you find yourself monitoring others? How much complaining, explaining, or disdaining do you do?
7. Where is your focus right now? On the work of the Lord or the Lord of the work?
8. As we have been participating weekly in communion during lent, we have been reminded of Jesus’ generous gift of himself to each of us. How are you resting in Jesus as your guarantee? How are you not? How can you?

Prayer/Verse:

“Return O man return and rest, to a burden light and yoke easy. Abide in your Savior, abide in his love, the labor of God is to trust in the Son.” – Song Lyrics