

6. What do you make of the 12-hour workers' complaint about lifting the 11th-hour workers up to their status?

7. What is the significance of the point that only Jesus can truly identify with the 12-hour workers?

Pastor Henry shared the following story from a commentary on Matthew by Matt Woodley: "This thought hit me as my friend George shared his journey to Christ. He was sitting in a dingy church basement confessing a sordid tale of sexual sin. After starting with pornography, he moved on to high-priced escort services. But then he hit bottom: his life unraveled, he lost his job, his family disowned him and his wife was leaving him. But now, like the prodigal son, George had finally "come to his senses." When he finished this tale of filth and mercy, George asked to share a poem he had just discovered. With hands shaking, he unraveled a scrap of paper and told us, "I've been carrying this all week and it's one of the most beautiful things I've ever read. You guys have probably never heard this before but it goes like this: `Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me; I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.'" As tears of joy and relief streamed down his face, I realized that I didn't understand God's grace. I've heard that old hymn a thousand times and it usually bores me. Grace can leave us angry, stunned, bewildered, delighted or grateful, but it will never make us bored. George, one of the "lasts," a latecomer to the vineyard, a desperately lost and hungry sinner, "discovered" God's grace and he wept for joy. On that day, George became my mentor in the ways of God's grace."

8. What is your part in keeping grace amazing in your heart?

9. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

SERIES: Frame: How the Stories of Jesus Frame our Reality

SERMON 3: "Frustrated by Grace"

TEXT: Matthew 20:1-16

DATE: January 16/17, 2016

God wants us to see how we are part of his bigger story because our lives are shaped by the story we believe we're in.

"All that being good and no real credit for it." (Julia Sweeney)

As amazing as grace is, it makes a lot of people _____.

Ephesians 2: ⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Grace is an _____ element in relating to God.

FIVE QUESTIONS

1. Why did the master give full wages to the _____ workers?
Matthew 20:15

- Because he _____.
- Because he is _____.
- Because he is _____.
- Because he wants to _____.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Matthew 20:1-16

2. Why did the master pay the 11th-hour workers _____?

He wants the 12-hour workers to see his _____.

He wants to _____ them to grumble so he can make a point.

3. Why do the 12-hour workers _____?

Matthew 20:10-12

What if the 12-hour workers had _____ when the 11th-hour workers were paid the same because they knew they would also get a meal that night?

They're more concerned about their own _____ than they are about other people's needs.

4. Why do you most _____ with the 12-hour workers in this story?

Jesus wants all of us to identify with the _____ every time, no matter who we are.

Jesus is the only person who can _____ with the 12-hour workers.

2 Corinthians 5: ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

5. When did grace cease being _____ to you?

"On that day, George became my mentor in the ways of God's grace." (Matt Woodley)

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Everybody values fairness. But people value fairness differently. On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you value fairness? If you can think of an example where fairness was important or unimportant in your life, share it with the group.

3. How is this parable a parable about grace?

4. Where is grace for the 12-hour workers in this story?

5. Pastor Henry offers four reasons why the master gave full wages the 11th-hour workers. Which one most resonates with you and why?