

Today's passage is known as the Parable of the Vineyard Workers. Through this message, Jesus explains what the kingdom of heaven is like. As we meditate more deeply on today's passage, may we come to understand more of the mystery of God's kingdom that Jesus has revealed.

First, the kingdom of heaven is full of grace.

In verse 1, Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner of a vineyard. So, through the image of this vineyard owner, Jesus reveals what heaven is like.

What kind of person is the vineyard owner in today's passage? What does he do? He is the one who initiates the call, hires the workers, and gives them their wages. He promises and pays a denarius—a full day's wage—to even day laborers. Remarkably, he also gives the same wage to those who came at 5 p.m. and worked only one hour. Even to a complaining worker, he responds by calling him "friend" and treats him as such. In short, he is an owner overflowing with grace.

Through this parable, Jesus teaches that entrance into heaven is by grace, and living in heaven means to dwell abundantly in that grace. (See: Ephesians 2:8-9, Matthew 13:31, Luke 13:6, 1 Corinthians 1:26)

Those unworthy of inheriting the kingdom are invited and led into it by the grace of God. Such is the grace of heaven.

Second, in heaven, the first may become last.

This parable is framed by the same phrase at the beginning and end. In Matthew 19:30 and 20:16, Jesus says, "The last will be first, and the first will be last."

Those who came earliest arrived at 6 a.m. In verse 11, they grumbled against the owner. They were upset that those who worked only one hour were treated the same. They were unhappy about having worked all day and endured the heat.

Their hearts were full of comparison and entitlement. Sadly, even in a place full of abundant grace, they became filled with complaint and resentment.

In truth, even those who came at 6 a.m. had no qualifications or merit to be called. A denarius was a great reward they could never earn. Yet at some point, receiving the denarius became something they felt entitled to. What they did began to seem like great effort and deserving merit.

None of us are qualified to own or enjoy the kingdom of heaven. We are saved only by the abundant grace of God. And His grace is inexhaustible. All believers will forever enjoy God's grace and mercy in full abundance. As we reflect on this, may our hearts turn away from the attitude of those who came first.

Third, in heaven, the last will become first.

Those who came last arrived at 5 p.m. Yet Jesus says they will receive the greatest blessing in God's kingdom. These are people who confessed that no one had hired them all day—those who understood their worthlessness and broken self-worth. Repeatedly rejected and hurt, their hearts were broken. But those who came at 5 p.m. were deeply thankful and overwhelmed just to be allowed into the vineyard, even if only for an hour. Receiving a denarius, despite doing nothing to earn it, filled them with indescribable gratitude and awe.

These are the ones who will be first in the kingdom of heaven—those who fully possess and enjoy it. May you be blessed with this gratitude and awe for the grace of God who came seeking and saving you. If you are thankful to the Lord who treated you as equal to those who came early and called you "friend," then you are already experiencing the kingdom in your heart.

May we always remember that the kingdom of God is full of grace and that we are the recipients of the greatest grace.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”
(Ephesians 2:8-9)

**Bible
Reading**

5/5(Mon)	5/6(Tue)	5/7(Wed)	5/8(Thur)	5/9(Fri)	5/10(Sat)	5/11(Sun)
1 Kings 21-22	2 Kings 1-2	2 Kings 3-4	2 Kings 5-6	2 Kings 7-9	2 Kings 10-12	2 Kings 13-14

QT

Quiet Time Passage

5/5(Mon)	5/6(Tue)	5/7(Wed)	5/8(Thur)	5/9(Fri)	5/10(Sat)	5/11(Sun)
Numbers 19:11-22	Numbers 20:1-13	Numbers 20:14-21	Numbers 20:22-29	Numbers 21:1-9	Numbers 21:10-20	Numbers 21:21-35

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Please share an experience of God’s grace in your life this past week through last week’s message or your quiet time.

2. What new insight or grace did you receive through today’s message?

3. Reflect on whether your current heart, as one living in God’s kingdom, resembles that of the first or the last worker. Pray together for the restoration of grace.