

The welcome verse for this week is John 1:16, “And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.”



Ridiculously Unfair

John 1:14; Matthew 9:9-13

Matthew 20:1-16

The Bottom Line: Grace is better than fair.

Introduction:

Grace, simply put, is the undeserved, unearned, and unearnable favor of God.

Grace can solve just about everything.

We could never understand the grace of God until we knew the presence of God, grace embodied in human flesh (John 1:14).

Jesus was the fullness of grace and truth, and while the truth he preached may have seemed abrasive, it was His grace that really unsettled certain people.

Tension:

Read Matthew 9:9-11.

There should have been celebration, instead there was critique. This didn't make sense to them and it often doesn't make sense to us. Maybe it was intended to be that way...

Truth:

Jesus addresses their concerns later down the road through a parable, a short story meant to explain a much larger principle.

Read Matthew 20:1-16.

Jesus' story begins like many of His other stories do, “for the kingdom of heaven is like...” This goal of this parable is to give some insight for what life with God is really like.

It didn't seem fair that the late workers would receive the same reward as the first.
The economy of God is the upside-down of our economy.

We compare to determine fair. Grace doesn't compare.

Grace doesn't compare because grace is married to truth. The truth is that we *all* fall short by God's standard.

Both the self-righteous and the unrighteous are offered the same grace.

Grace is not dependant on who you are but on who Jesus is.

Application & Conclusion:

Finishing our story from **Matthew 9:9-13**, we realize that we're all messed up and we all need healing for the sin-sickness within us. Jesus says it's no longer about what we have offered before Him, but the grace and generosity that He is now offering us. Everyone is invited to walk through the same door and feast at the same table of grace.

Next Steps:

- Memorize Matthew 9:13.
- Repent of any self-righteousness in your heart.
- Reflect on God's grace this week and thank him in prayer.