

Sermon Outline: GOD’S NOT FAIR! (Matthew 20:1-16)

Intro: *You’ve heard it, you’ve said it, you’ve felt it: “It’s not fair!!”*

I. IT’S NOT FAIR: THE PARABLE OF THE LANDOWNER

(Matthew 20:1-16)

- A. The laborer began his shift at 6:00am: one denarius promised for 12 hours work
- B. He saw the owner go out at 9:00am, 12 noon, and 3:00pm for more workers
- C. The owner went out again at 5:00pm.... the vineyard needed more workers
- D. Paytime arrived at 6:00pm, and *surprise*: each worker got one denarius - *no fair!*
- E. The context of the parable: Jesus is addressing Pharisees and disciples upset about “undesirables” being welcomed into God’s kingdom

II. IT’S NOT FAIR: IS IT WORTH ALL THE TROUBLE FOLLOWING JESUS?

- A. Sometimes we wonder, as did Peter, is it fair and is it worth it (Matthew 19:27)
- B. Jesus says: God’s way is not based on the values of the world (Matt.19:29-30)
- C. God’s way is the way of mercy, not fairness

III. GOD’S NOT FAIR: THANK GOD HE’S NOT..... HE’S MERCIFUL!!

- A. For this we can be truly thankful
- B. If we were treated on the basis of fairness, we’d be in BIG trouble (Isaiah 64:6)
- C. The wages we have earned in the vineyard are judgment and death (Rom. 6:23)
- D. God’s way is the way of mercy, not fairness (Matt. 20:1; Gen. 3:9; Lk. 23:42-43)
- E. It is not important that you came to vineyard at “6:00am” or at “5:00pm”
- F. It is only important that God has welcomed you in

Conclusion: *It’s NOT fair... it’s amazing grace!*