

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### SERMON OUTLINE -- SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

# “It’s Not Fair!”

*(Matthew 20:1-16)*

**INTRODUCTION:** *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 labourer began his shift at 6:00am; one denarius 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. 6:00pm, and *surprise*: each worker got one denarius – *no fair!*
- E. In this 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 (Matthew 19:29-30)
- C. God’s way is the way of mercy, not fairness

*(please turn over to continue)*

### **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 judgement and death  
(Romans 6:23)
- D. God's way is the way of mercy, not fairness  
(Matthew 20:1; Genesis 3:9, Luke 23:42-43)
- E. It is not important that you came to the 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!***