



# THE *Life* OF Jesus

**FEBRUARY 28, 2021 – ENVIOUS OR GENEROUS?**

## Two Questions that Lead Up to This Parable

*"Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, 'Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?'"* **Matthew 19:16**

*"Peter answered him, 'We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?'"* **Matthew 19:27**

## The Workers in the Vineyard

*"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.*

*He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard'*

*When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'*

*But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."*

**Matthew 20:1-16**

## The Principle of this Parable:

**The last will be first, and the first will be last.**



# THE

# Life OF Jesus

## FEBRUARY 28, 2021 - ENVIOUS OR GENEROUS?

### 1. Jesus reveals our desire for merit

"When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over thee. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'"

**Matthew 20:24-28**

"The greatest among you will be your servant For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." **Matthew 23:11-12**

### 2. Jesus reveals our need for grace

"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**

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." **2 Corinthians 8:9.**

### 3. God is more generous than we can imagine

"But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' **Matthew 20:13-15**

"[God] causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." **Matthew 5:45**

### 4. God calls us to be gracious givers

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." **Luke 6:37-38**