



## **LIFE IS NOT ALWAYS FAIR**

**Matthew 20:1-16**

- **Why are there so many things that happen in our life that seem so unfair?**
- **We live in a world that is not fair in regards to circumstances, and sometimes that unfairness impacts our careers, finances, relationships, joy and our influence.**
- *“God looked over all He had made, and He saw that it was very good!” (Genesis 1:31)*
- **Life is often unfair because we live in a sinful and broken world that does not operate the way God designed it (Genesis 3:17-19).**
- *“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” (Romans 3:23)*
- **God’s brand of fairness is often very different from the world’s view of fairness.**
- *“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)*
- **The Lord wants us to experience a blessed life (John 10:10), but we must take on Jesus’ perspective of fairness in order to experience the life He offers to us.**
- **What can we learn from Jesus’ Parable about Fairness?**

**We Learn From Jesus’ Parable About Fairness That We Must:**

### **ACCEPT THE ASSIGNMENT THE LORD GIVES US**

- *“For the Kingdom of Heaven is like the landowner who went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work. At nine o’clock in the morning he was passing through the marketplace and saw some people standing around doing nothing. So he hired them, telling them he would pay them whatever was right at the end of the day.” (Matthew 20:1-4)*
- **The Lord has purposes and plans for our lives.**
- Paul - *“We are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.” (Ephesians 2:10)*
- **We must be careful not to long for what has not been offered to or planned for us.**
- *“You want what you don’t have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can’t get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them...” (James 4:2)*

- **We can have many desires for our lives but it is the Lord who knows what is best for us.**
- *“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)*
- **The difficulty we face when accepting our God-given assignments is that our flesh and spirit are in constant war with one another.**
- *“The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.” (Galatians 5:17)*
- **We cannot see and experience God's way until we plug into His purposes for our lives.**
- *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)*
- **What are some plans that the Lord has for me that I am struggling to embrace?**

**We Learn From Jesus' Parable About Fairness That We Must:**

#### **ADJUST TO THE ROLE THE LORD HAS FOR US**

- *“So they went to work in the vineyard...” (Matthew 20:5)*
- **The Lord has called us to be involved in serving Him in His “vineyard”, but He has different roles and responsibilities for each of us.**
- *“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” (1 Peter 4:10)*
- **Too many people want God to adjust to their wants and wishes for their life, but we must submit ourselves to the Lord's will and way for our lives.**
- *“The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.” (Psalm 37:23)*
- The Lord - *“I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put My Spirit in you so that you will follow My decrees and be careful to obey My regulations.” (Ezekiel 36:26-27)*
- **What areas of my life do I need to submit to the Lord?**

**We Learn From Jesus' Parable About Fairness That We Must:**

#### **AVOID COMPARING OURSELVES TO OTHERS**

- *“When they received their pay, they protested to the owner, Those people worked only one hour, and yet you've paid them just as much as you paid us who worked all day in the scorching heat.” (Matthew 20:11-12)*
- **We have a tendency to look at others and compare ourselves to them.**
- Peter - *“...He (Jesus) is your example, and you must follow in His steps.” (1 Peter 2:21)*
- **When we are constantly comparing ourselves to others we become distracted, discouraged and defeated.**
- Paul - *“There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)*

- **Comparison causes us to become distracted and keeps us from accomplishing God's purposes for our lives.**
- *"Jesus replied (to Peter), 'If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow Me.'" (John 21:22)*
- **We should be happy when others prosper in their lives even when we feel they did so with less ability, effort or time.**
- *"If one part (of Christ's Body) suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad." (1 Corinthians 12:26)*
- Paul - *"Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)*
- **Who do I find myself comparing myself to other than Jesus - and how does that comparison affect my life?**

**We Learn From Jesus' Parable About Fairness That We Must:**

### **ASPIRE TO PLEASE OUR MASTER**

- *"So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last." (Matthew 20:16)*
- **We are not to live with a mindset that this life is about us.**
- Jesus - *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28)*
- **If all we do is focus on this life, we will miss out on the point of the Christian life.**
- Paul - *"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:1-3)*
- **Our focus must be set on eternal living, knowing that this is just a temporary stop.**
- *"For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come." (Hebrews 13:14)*
- **Our ultimate goal is to fulfill the Lord's will in this life so that we experience His affirmation and receive His rewards in the next life.**
- The Lord - *"Well done, My good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!" (Matthew 25:21)*
- **What steps do I need to take to have an eternal perspective rather than an earthly perspective?**
- Jesus - *"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need." (Matthew 6:33)*
- Paul - *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me - the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of His return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to His appearing." (2 Timothy 4:7-8)*
- **What is the Lord saying to me through this message?**

