

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 21st September 2014

## **PARABLE OF THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD**

### **As we Gather**

This parable emphasises the right attitude of a disciple toward service. It is possible to do the Father's work, yet not do His will from the heart (Ephesians 6:6).

**Reading Scripture      MATTHEW 20 : 1 – 16**

### **Thinking together**

Jesus had taught His disciples before about attitudes and behaviour prevailing in the kingdom of heaven; and this parable grew out of the attitude of the disciples toward service and rewards (Matthew 19:27).

He rebuked the spirit of serving for reward, rather than out of love (Matthew 20:10) when He told the story of the two kinds of workers hired

- Those who wanted a contract and agreed to a days wage – they received what they asked for
- Those without contract who agreed to take whatever was right – they trusted in the goodness of the master

**Have you ever been jealous of how God has blessed someone? Discuss**

This parable serves as a warning and a comfort to all disciples. Entrance to the kingdom of heaven is by God's grace alone, and those who have been Christ-followers for a long time and occupy a favoured position in the church / faith community are no more precious to God than those newly come into faith

- No matter when you come to the Lord, all are equally precious to God
- Even those who are 'outside' the faith / without heritage, are precious to God

Christianity is inclusive and all have a contribution to make, no matter at what stage / age of your life you enter the kingdom

**Do you sometimes resent / feel suspicious of death-bed repentances? Discuss**

No one deserves eternal life. This is the gift of a sovereign and graciously generous God. (Matthew 20: 15)

This story also reveals the compassion of God. Nothing is more tragic than one who has ability and talents in idleness. It did not matter how long or how short a time they served, the workers all received the same payment, as each had the right to work and to receive a living wage.

**Do you sometimes feel that your talents / skills are not fully recognised by the church?  
Discuss**

## **In Closing**

All that God gives is of grace; we cannot earn or deserve His blessings.

Sometimes there is a danger that in our pride we consider our service in the community of faith to be greater than that of others, yet we should remember – we see the worker but God sees the heart (1 Corinthians 4:5).

## **PRAYER YOU MIGHT LIKE TO READ**

Glorious God, your generosity floods the world with goodness,  
and from your hand even the dissatisfied and grumbling receive  
what they need for their lives.

Teach us your ways of justice, and lead us to practice your generosity  
so that we may live lives worthy of the gospel proclaimed by Jesus Christ.

## **SOURCES CONSULTED IN PREPARING THESE NOTES**

Barclay, William: The Daily Study Bible, revised edition, The Gospel of Matthew, volume 2

Wiersbe, Warren W.: The Bible Expository Commentary, volume 2

Life Application Bible (NIV)

Spirit Filled Life Bible (New King James)