

## **Sermon Discussion Guide for small groups, families, and individuals**

### **“Begrudging Grace”**

**Matthew 20:1-16**

**July 12-13, 2014**

#### **For Starters**

1. Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you, or raised questions?
2. What’s the most generous gift you have ever received? What was your response to their generosity?
3. What was the occasion that first introduced you to envy?

#### **Digging In**

*Read Jesus’ parable in Matthew 20:1-16*

1. What is the context of this parable? Note the book ends of Mt 19:30 and 20:16. In your own words, what is this story about?
2. How do the words of both the workers and the landowner help us understand both our view and God’s view on how it is that we receive good things from God? See verses 12-15.
3. What are the two things we learn about God through the landowner?

*Read the following passages on God’s justice and grace*

- Deuteronomy 32:4
- Ps 89:14
- Isaiah 30:18
- Ex 34:6-7
- Ps 103:8

4. At the end of the day the workers had a problem with the landowner’s generosity—it was not with his justice. How is it that instead of celebrating his generosity, they hated it? What had to happen?
5. Read Luke 18:9-14. How does this parable connect to Mt 20? What about the Beatitudes in Mt 5:3,10?

#### **Bringing it Home**

1. Do you like Jesus’ story or are you bothered by it? Explain.
2. Are you more likely to see yourself as deserving or undeserving of God’s favor? Why?
3. Have you received God’s grace? Read Eph 2:8-9. Or are you working for His grace?
4. Are you amazed or offended by God’s grace? Does pride or humility mark your life (how do you know)? Does envy, grumbling or gratitude mark your life? What’s keeping you from being amazed by God’s grace?

#### **Digging Deeper**

Read Phil 2: 5-11 and meditate on Christ—this is how the last become first as we better understand what Jesus did for us. Pray, thanking God for His generous gift offered to us in His Son.

Belonging to a small group is a great way to grow spiritually. If you would like to join a group or get more information, contact Melanie at [myeazel@doorcreekchurch.org](mailto:myeazel@doorcreekchurch.org).