

The First and the Last

Matthew 19:27

Rewards

- We have left everything to follow you!
- What then will there be for us?

Rewards

- But many who are first will be last,
• and many who are last will be first.
- God's economy is not the same as the economy of the world.

Parable

- Kingdom of heaven is like
 - a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work
- He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day

Parable

- saw others standing in the marketplace
 - go and work...
 - I will pay you whatever is right

Parable

- sixth hour...ninth hour...eleventh
- Call the workers and pay them their wages
 - beginning with the last...to the first

Parable

- the workers hired about the eleventh hour...each received a denarius
- those...who were hired first...also received a denarius

Justice

- those...hired first...expected to receive more
- they began to grumble
 - you made them equal to us
 - who have borne the burden

Justice

- I am not being unfair to you
- Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?
- Take your pay and go.

Grace

- I want to give the man 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?

Grace

- Or are you envious because I am generous?

Grace

- So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

Grace

- Do not be surprised by kingdom reversals.
- God welcomes the “latecomers.”

Grace

- I Corinthians 1:26-31
 - think of what you were when you were called
 - not many were wise by human standards
 - not many were influential
 - not many were of noble birth

Grace

- I Corinthians 1:26-31
 - God chose
 - the foolish things of the world
 - the weak things of the world
 - the lowly things of this world and the despised things,
 - the things that are not...

Grace

- Expect God to share the bountiful blessings of the kingdom.
- Be on guard against envy or resentment over God’s grace.

First and Last

- Rely on God’s justice and grace.
- Rejoice in God’s generosity.