



## Matthew 20:1-16 New International Version

**20** “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> He agreed to pay them a denarius<sup>[a]</sup> for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

<sup>3</sup> “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup> He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ <sup>5</sup> So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup> 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?’

<sup>7</sup> “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

<sup>8</sup> “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.’

<sup>9</sup> “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. <sup>12</sup> ‘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.’

<sup>13</sup> “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’ <sup>14</sup> Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup> Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

<sup>16</sup> “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”



## HABITS OF A CONTAGIOUS CHRISTIAN

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**JUSTICE** is getting what you deserve

**MERCY** is NOT getting what you deserve

**GRACE** is getting what you don’t deserve

### Grace is practical **GENEROSITY**

Grace is a problem for those who are inherently **COMPETITIVE**

*“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”*

### Grace is **CONFRONTATIONAL**

Grace is a problem for those who benefit from **INEQUALITY**

*“You have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.” V12*

### Grace is the only **CURE**

*Grace is of little value to those who do not believe they need it*

Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” John 9:40

***Grateful Heart*** – cure for pride

***Servant’s Heart*** – cure for arrogance

***Generous Heart*** – cure for indifference

# LIVING WORD



*When Grace moves in... **Guilt moves out.***

## **I Choose Love...**

No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves.

## **I Choose Joy...**

I will invite my God to be the God of circumstance. I will refuse the temptation to be cynical. I will refuse to see people as anything less than human beings, created by God. I will refuse to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God.

## **I Choose Peace...**

I will live forgiven. I will forgive so I may live.

## **I Choose Patience...**

I will overlook the inconveniences of the world. Instead of cursing the one who takes my place, I'll invite him to do so, Rather complain that the wait is too long, I will thank God for a moment to pray. Instead of clenching my fist at new assignments, I will face them with joy and courage.

## **I Choose Kindness...**

I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone. Kind to the rich, for they are afraid. And kind to the unkind, for that is how God has treated me.

## **I Choose Goodness...**

I will go without a dollar before I take a dishonest one. I will be overlooked before I will boast. I will confess before I accuse. I choose goodness

## **I Choose Faithfulness...**

Today I will keep my promises. My debtors will not regret their trust. My

friends will not question my word. And my family will not question my love.

## **I Choose Gentleness...**

Nothing is won by force. I choose to be gentle. If I raise my voice may it only be in praise. If I clench my fist, may it only be in prayer. If I make a demand, may it be only of myself.

## **I Choose Self-Control...**

I refuse to let what will rot, rule the eternal. I choose self-control. I will be drunk only by joy. I will be impassioned only by my faith. I will be influenced only by God. I will be taught only by Christ. I choose self-control.

***Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control. To these I commit my day. If I succeed, I will give thanks. If I fail, I will seek His grace. And then when this day is done I will place my head on my pillow and rest.***

Excerpt From Max Lucado

*Grateful Heart – cure for pride*

*Servant's Heart – cure for arrogance*

*Generous Heart – cure for indifference*

“Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.” 1 Corinthians 1:26-27

*A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. Luke 22:24-26*