

FINDING FAIRNESS *in Life*

Matthew 20:1-16 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

Discussion Questions

1. When do you find life unfair?
2. Many times when we think that life is unfair and that God doesn't treat us fairly, we become bitter and angry. Fairness is such an important life lesson to learn that Jesus spoke about it in Matthew 20:1-16. Read the passage and discuss the following:
 - What situation did Jesus use to compare to the Kingdom of Heaven?
 - How did the owner compensate the workers that worked on his farm?
 - Why did the first hired workers complain?
 - How did the owner (who represents God) respond?
3. How the owner responded in this parable teaches us about how God operates, and from what we learn about God we draw out biblical principles for how we can find fairness in life:

God deals fairly with each person individually. Learn to be content (v. 13). How did God create every individual differently? How are you responsible for your own life? What is the danger of comparing your own situation with someone else's? What is the best solution so that you will not feel as if you're being treated unfairly?

God deals with each person graciously. Learn to not compare (v. 14). Can you honestly say that you deserve what you have? How do you understand God's grace? What is God's greatest manifestation of His grace to mankind? If you focus on God's grace in your life, do you think you would easily be jealous of others? Why? You certainly feel happy when God blesses you, but how do you feel when God blesses others?

God has the right to give what He desires, and it comes from His good heart for our best. Learn to trust (v. 15). Could you demand something from God? Why would God withhold something apparently good from you? What does it mean that it is God's prerogative to give, according to your need, which is fair and by His grace? How are you trusting God and His good heart to provide for you?

Reflect & Respond

Are you content because you know that God deals fairly with each person individually? Have you learned not to compare because you know that God deals with each person graciously? Do you trust God because you know that He has the right to give what He desires and it comes from His good heart for your best? In what way can you show your gratitude to God for showing you His amazing grace in your life?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I must admit that sometimes I feel that life has not treated me well because of the many things that I don't have in my life. But I should never forget that You have given me life, provisions for my daily needs, good health, and most important of all, You have given me my Savior Jesus Christ who died to save me from sin and gave me eternal life that I will enjoy forever. Lord, please give me the heart of contentment that trusts You, knowing that You know what is best for me. Thank You for every good thing that You blessed me with. In Jesus' precious name I pray. Amen.