PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

Rejoicing in the Generosity of Our King

Matthew 20:1–16 | Based on Pastor Patrick's November 1 sermon

The kingdom is the rule, reign, and work of Christ — and His character is gracious, righteous, and generous.

Begin with Scripture

Pray for humility and a teachable heart. Slowly read Matthew 19:13–30 and Matthew 20:1–16 (ESV). Notice what the children, the rich young ruler, Peter, and the laborers reveal about human expectations of the kingdom.

Read Matthew 20:1–16 a second time. Mark the master's actions, the workers' assumptions, and the question the master asks in verse 15.

Observe the passage

1. **What does the master do throughout the day? What does he promise the first workers and the later workers?**

2. **What is surprising about the order of payment and the amount the last workers receive?**

3. **Why do the first laborers grumble? Has the master failed to keep his promise?**

Understand the King's character

The kingdom is gracious in its calling. The master seeks those who have not earned an invitation. God's grace is His freely given, undeserved favor; it begins in His own goodness rather than in our merit.

4. **Where do you see the master taking initiative? How does that point you toward God's grace?**

The kingdom is righteous in its dealings. What is right is determined by the holy character of God, not by our changing sense of fairness. Read Deuteronomy 32:4.

5. **How is the master both faithful to his promise and generous to the late workers? Why are those truths not in conflict?**

The kingdom is generous in its giving. The last workers receive more than their labor could claim. Read Jonah 4 and consider how Jonah reacts to God's compassion toward Nineveh.

6. **What similarities do you see between Jonah's anger and the laborers' resentment?**

Look to Christ

In the sermon, Pastor Patrick connects this parable to the finished work of Christ: He fulfilled righteousness we could not achieve and bore the judgment sin deserves. The benefits of His obedience are received by repentant faith, not by accumulating enough years or acts of service.

7. **How does Christ's finished work correct the thought that God owes me blessing because of what I have done?**

Bring the Word into your life

8. **When have you found it difficult to rejoice at God's kindness to another person? What comparison or expectation was underneath that response?**

9. **Where are you tempted to evaluate God's goodness by outcomes instead of by His character?**

10. **What would gratitude, trust, and genuine rejoicing look like in one concrete relationship or circumstance this week?**

Pray in response

Father, You are gracious in Your calling, righteous in all Your ways, and generous in Your giving. Forgive my comparison, grumbling, and sense of entitlement. Teach me to trust what You say about Yourself, to treasure what Christ has accomplished, and to rejoice when You show kindness to others. Amen.

Remember and practice

Key verse to revisit: Matthew 20:15. Reflect on the master's question about begrudging his generosity. This week, name three evidences of God's grace in your own life, then thank Him for one specific good gift He has given someone else.

Further reading: Matthew 19:13–30; Deuteronomy 32:4; Jonah 4; Luke 10:7.