Creekside Community Church

Matthew: Return of the King

January 28th, 2018

Jeff Bruce, Lead Pastor

**Matthew 20:1-16: The Cure for Comparison**

1. **How God “Rewards” (20:1-16; see 19:30)**
2. **How We (Shouldn’t) Respond (20:10-12)**
3. **How We Should Respond**

**For further thought and discussion:**

**Getting Started**

1. What was helpful to you in this week’s sermon? What didn’t you understand?
2. Paul calls us to *“Rejoice with those who rejoice”*, and *“weep with those who weep”* (Romans 12:15). When have you found it difficult to rejoice in another person’s success. Why was it difficult for you?

**Going Deeper**

1. Read Matthew 19:27-30. What prompts Jesus to tell the parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard (20:1-16)? What attitude in Peter/the disciples is Jesus trying to address?
2. Why do those hired first in this parable grumble against the owner (20:10)? What does this reveal about their hearts? How does the owner respond (vv. 13-15)? Why do the laborers have no right to be upset?
3. Compare Matthew 19:30 with Matthew 20:16. What does this phrase (viz., *“the last will be first/the first will be last”*) mean? How does Jesus’ parable illustrate the meaning of this proverb (see also 1 Corinthians 1:26-29)?

**Application**

1. Where do you struggle with comparison? In what ways do you feel superior or inferior to others? How does the truth of this parable (viz., that God treats *every* person in his kingdom better than they deserve) address your struggle?
2. Through this parable, Jesus shows us that God doesn’t give to people purely on the basis of what they “*deserve*”, but on the basis of what they need. Why is it critical for us to adopt God’s mindset if we wish to be generous? Where do you need to adopt this mindset in your own life?
3. What’s one thing you can apply this week from this passage?