

appnotes

# I ♥ MMY CHURCH

DAY  
1

**READ MATTHEW 20:1-16**

What's your gut reaction when you read this parable? Honestly, with our American mindset, it's easy to think "that's not fair!" The truth is, God's grace isn't fair! As people who have been in a relationship with Jesus, laboring with him for a long time, we should never resent those who are just now coming to Christ (and coming to our church). God delights in giving out His grace even at the last minute...like the thief on the cross.

DAY  
2

**READ LUKE 18:9-14**

Does this parable sound familiar? Check out verse 9. It may sound like some church people you know or maybe even some churches you've attended. Jesus lets us know that we should never be "confident of our own righteousness and look down on everyone else." Yet we all play the "goodness by comparison" game. Did you hear the Pharisee's prayer? "Thank you God that I'm not as bad as him." The tax collector does nothing but throw himself on the grace of God. And He "went home justified before God." Don't forget that we have God's favor only because of God's grace.

DAY  
3

**READ LUKE 14:15-24**

In this parable, Jesus tells the story of a wealthy man who wants to throw a banquet. The "A" list people were too busy to attend, and some of their excuses seem pretty lame. Eventually, it was the outcasts and the forgotten that responded to the invitation and found a place at the banquet table. They did nothing to earn this privilege; it was given out of the grace of the master. God's economy seems backward from our world's. It is often the successful, busy, self-sufficient person who does not want to be bothered with the promise of salvation and a place at Jesus' banquet table. God chooses the weak and the overlooked so that we can see that it's all by His grace (1 Corinthians 1:26-31).

DAY  
4

**READ MATTHEW 18:21-35**

How are you at forgiving others? Jesus tells this parable to let us know the expectation for forgiveness. In this parable, one man has an unpaid debt that is completely forgiven by the master. He experiences profound grace. So naturally, he was ready to pay it forward, right? Nope! Jesus tells us the man immediately turned around and withheld grace from someone who owed him a few bucks. As people who have experienced the profound grace of God, we should be people who show profound grace to others at all times.

DAY  
5

**READ MATTHEW 13:1-8,18-23**

This parable has an important message for us as a church. As we seek to help people find the way back to God, our message will fall on different hearts, just as seeds fall on different types of soil. In many cases, we will see no results or only short-term results. We should not be discouraged by this, but should instead continue sharing the message, sowing seed generously. And as we sow that seed, we need to trust God that some of it will take root in good soil and celebrate the harvest of life-change!

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

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