

THE STORYTELLER

Week 5: Irritating Grace

Sermon Series:

We launched a new series! For the next 13 weeks, we are going to unpack the parables of Jesus, investigating the parables from the Gospel of Matthew and Luke.

Last week, Jeff defined a parable as a story that explains our reality giving a new or greater understanding of the world around us. Specifically, concerning God and our relationship with God. Key to parables is their depth and layers, they are stories that come alongside our own circumstances.

As we go through this series remember Jeff's 4 steps to consider: 1. What is the context in which the parable is told? 2. What are the indispensable plot elements? 3. What was the meaning at that moment, in that setting? 4. How does that meaning adapt to our cultural setting today?

The purpose of this sermon series is to draw us in, pique our curiosity, and sit with Jesus. You are invited to pull up a chair ask questions, be confused, wonder, and listen to the parable of Jesus.

Message Focus:

Irritating Grace

The Passages: Matt. 20:1-16

The Framework Breakdown:

- 1.) What is the frustration of the morning laborers? How would you react (or have reacted) in similar circumstances? When, where, or who do you compare yourself to/against? What is the impact of comparison on you and on the other? How does comparison undermine the truths of this parable or from Scripture? What is contentment? How does contentment work against comparison? How does one become content?
- 2.) What is revealed about God's character through the landowner? Compare Mat.16:13-15 with 2 Peter 3:8-9, what appears to be the main objective for God? In what way is God's generosity offensive to the human mindset? Does this human mindset carry over in our church culture, why or how? How should God's generosity influence our church and our culture... or how do we become more like the landowner and less like the laborers?
- 3.) When Jesus ends the parable, "So the last will be first, and the first will be last," he repeats himself. See Mat. 19:30. Discuss what you think Jesus is referring to in both circumstances. How does this impact our view of the world around us? Are we to live in a similar manner here and now, why or why not? How is our church a reflection of this proverb, or how can we become a better reflection of it?