



I'd Become an Accidental Pharisee

Matthew 20:1-16 • August 2nd, 2026

BIG IDEA

The Christian life is all of grace from beginning to end.

OUTLINE

The parable exposes the workers who...

1. Came late (v.9) — and were paid in full.
2. Kept record (v.10-12) — of their burden and their hours.
3. Were filled with contempt (v.12) — "you have made them equal to us."

CALL TO RESPOND

1. Take stock of where grace has drifted into works.
2. Rehearse the truth of your credited righteousness.
3. Pursue joy instead of jealousy in your story.
4. Applaud grace in someone else's story, not just your own.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Think back over the last year of your walk with the Lord. Where has your confidence quietly shifted from "Christ is good enough" to "I've been good enough" — reading, serving, attending? Come prepared to share.
2. The workers who came late got a full day's wage for one hour of work. Why does that feel unfair to us, even when we know it's grace? What does that reaction reveal about how we actually think grace works?
3. If entrance into blessing was never about hours in the hot sun, why do we still keep score — on ourselves and on others? Where do you see this "record-keeping" showing up in the church around you?
4. The workers' contempt started as an unspoken feeling before it became a verbalized complaint. What does it look like to catch contempt or comparison in your own heart before it becomes a verbalized judgment of someone else?

DIRECT APPLICATION

1. Are you resting in the grace you've received in Christ, or are you quietly keeping a ledger — of your own labor, or of someone else's lack of it? a. If you're resting, share how you've cultivated that posture of trust. b. If you're keeping a ledger, confess this as a failure to believe the gospel of credited righteousness, and submit it to the word. c. As a group, commit to encouraging those who are resting well, and coming alongside those who are struggling with regular reminders that grace paid it in full.
2. Share with your group where you're most tempted toward an "elder brother" spirit — looking down on someone else's faith, ministry, or story because it didn't cost them what it cost you.
3. Where would rejoicing over someone else's grace (rather than comparing it to your own labor) change the way you treat people this week?