

## THANKSGIVING AT ENCOUNTER

### WHAT'S IN YOUR BOWL

Matthew 20:1 – 15

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### MESSAGE NOTES

Life is unfair.

*For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard.*

— Matthew 20:1

*He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, "You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, "Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?" "Because no one has hired us," they answered. He said to them, "You also go and work in my vineyard." — Matthew 20:2 – 7*

*When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first." The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. "These who were hired last worked only one hour," they said, "and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day." — Matthew 20:8 – 12*

*But he answered one of them, "I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?" — Matthew 20:13 – 15*

What's in your bowl?

Are you jealous because I am generous?

*The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you reside in my land as foreigners and strangers.*

— Leviticus 25:23

*When the Lord your God brings you into the land He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you — a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant — then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. — Deuteronomy 6:10 – 12*

*Do not move your neighbor's boundary stone set up by your predecessors in the inheritance you receive in the land the Lord your God is giving you to possess. — Deuteronomy 19:14*

What happens if I mess with the boundary stones?

1. I turn my back on what I have been given.
2. I leave my "place" for someone else's "place."

Sin can often be traced back to believing that God has not been good to us.

A heart that believes it has been “ripped off” by God can easily justify its actions.

What are the consequences if I inwardly suspect that God has ripped me off?

- I miss out on seeing the good all around me.
- I am unable to experience joy for others when something great happens to them.
- I may go into financial debt attaining what I should not have.
- I refuse to trust that God has what is best for me.
- I withhold my worship.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from this weekend’s message?
- Explain what entitlement is and how people use it.
- What are some boundary lines that God gives us in our lives that we should never cross? Why?
- Explain what God means when He says in Matthew 20:15, “are you jealous because I am generous?”
- What are some different ways God has blessed you?
- Share any feelings you may have had about being “ripped off” by God.
- What are some ways you can live life and not let your blessings become a curse?