

Fair or Grace - Matthew 20:1-16

Into the Lesson:

What are some of the changes that have taken place in all sports in the last 10-20 years? Have all the changes been good?

What impact has "instant replay" had on sports? Do you think Tiger's pitcher Armando Galaraga (ask Rick) would like to have had "instant replay" on June 10, 2010? (Don't even get me started on the whole, "men identifying as women" issue.)

How have some of the changes "leveled the field" to make the games fairer?

How about the abundance of attorney ads that in essence say, "we'll make sure you get your fair share"?

Into the Word:

Reread Matthew 20:1-16 to get a sense of how "fairness" was an issue even 2000+ years ago.

From our study of Acts, how do we see the principle of this parable (v.16) continue to be an issue in the early church?

Acts 4:1-3-
Acts 5:17-18-
Acts 6:6-13-
Acts 13:30-
Acts 17:13-

Read Luke 23:39-43 and compare with II Corinthians 11:24-28 and consider the "fairness" of a "deathbed conversion" as opposed to 30 plus years of suffering Paul endured for the Gospel.

How does the "But God" passage in Ephesians 2:1-10 help us to understand God's "fairness"?

How does the "least of these" passage from Matthew 25:31-46 give a clear picture of God's perspective on fairness?

Into Life:

How do we see Lane's reference to the "blessings police to make sure everything is fair and even" played out today?

What are some of the indications that our culture is inundated with the concept of, "getting my fair share"? How has this mind set led to some of the misconceptions of "entitlement" and "victimhood"?

How can the concept of Grace become an eye-opening experience for these people?

How do we gain an audience with this person?

Respond to Lane's statement, "...people are not so much looking for a friendly church as they are looking for a friend".

How would our lives look if we lived daily with the realization that it's, "out of His incredible Grace that any of us has _____"?

How about in the lives of those we encounter who believe they, "just can't get a break"?

"...if you want to be happy,
look through the eyes of Grace."