

9/13/20

Recap of last week's message (9/6/20 – Joe Ricchuiti – Matthew 19:27-20:16):

1. Jesus teaches the parable of Matthew 20:1-16 to correct a bargaining/haggling spirit exhibited by the disciples ("What's in it for us? Matthew 19:27-30) and the "rich young ruler" (Matthew 19:16-26). The issue is that a bargaining, mercenary, attitude is out of place when dealing with a generous, gracious God. In the parable, the first group hired was the only one to ask for a contract ("agreed"). As Wiersbe writes: "[They] demanded a contract and insisted on knowing how much they would get."
2. Believers today sometimes exhibit a similar bargaining/haggling attitude with God ("If you do this for me...I will do this..."). For example: "If you give me this promotion...this job...this house...I will." Or "If you help me pass this check ride...get this plane...I will."
3. The problem with this attitude is that it assumes that God needs to be bribed to be good to us when the Scripture is clear that God is already good to us. He is gracious to us. We're so busy telling God what we need—that we miss what He wants to give us. When we bargain with God we limit God.
-“It honours Christ to trust Him and serve Him, and not to bargain with Him.” (M. Henry)
-“The owner represents God; the story celebrates His incalculable goodness to His children. Just as surely as they do not deserve it, He has the right to freely bestow it.” (Chamblin)
4. The bottom line is:
 - don't bargain or haggle with God; put no conditions on our service, loyalty, or faithfulness.
 - serve God unreservedly, joyously, lovingly, and without thought of repayment because our God is generous and wants to do so much more than we can ask or think.
 - if we bargain with God we will be disappointed, critical of Him, and dissatisfied with what we get.