



The Redemption of Scrooge

Date: Saturday Dec 8th, 2018

Title: Workers in the Vineyard.

Text: [Matthew 20: 1-16](#)

I encourage you to take a few minutes and read this [story Jesus told](#) about the kingdom of God. It begins with the idea of Just Desserts. But it does not end there. The workers who worked the least and did not suffer the heat of the day were paid just as much as those who worked all day.

While this story rubs against our sense of fairness it is helpful to remember that our sense of fairness depends on the factors at play in a particular situation. And we do not know all the factors at play in this story or in any situation. We just don't. Jesus makes the point that God sees things differently than we do. Good News!!

No one complains about fairness when they receive grace. In the story, those who received a full day's wage for working only an hour did not complain. I imagine they were grateful. The complaints came from those who had worked all day and had been given what they deserved. It turns out when we get what we deserve, we find out it is not really what we want after all. Grace is what we most need.

None of the workers deserved to be invited to the vineyard to work at all. Could it be that the gift was the invitation to come work in the vineyard?

Thought to ponder: How have you experienced God's grace in your life?

Prayer: If you dealt with us according to what we deserved, who could stand? Good and gracious God, we are grateful that grace and love is who you are, not just what you do. Amen.