



Grace Assembly Of God

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture:	Matthew 20	Title:	Divine Generosity
Author	Ps Jadene Ng		
Summary of Chapter	Jesus shared on the parable of the vineyard owner who hired workers towards the end of the day. He paid them the same wages as those who had started work early in the morning, much to the surprise and displeasure of the early workers.		
Key Verse(s) NLT	How does it speak to me?		
<i>¹³ "He answered..., 'Friend, I haven't been unfair! Didn't you agree to work all day for the usual wage? ... I wanted to pay this last worker the same as you. ... Should you be jealous because I am kind to others?' ¹⁶ "So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last."</i>	<p>We are all born with an in-built desire for fairness and justice. To see someone paid more for less work done than us would cause many of us to be upset and may even speak up against such "unfairness". Here, however, the owner had not short-changed the earlier workers. He just gave more to the later ones. He demonstrated a generosity few would have shown. It is a reversal of human expectations and convention. The kingdom of God operates by grace and generosity because our God is full of grace and mercy. He is not just fair; He is more than fair! He treats us far more generously than we deserve. If we count the number of times that we have neglected obeying His Word or ignored His Spirit's promptings to us, we should be so astonished that He still showers us with His love and presence each day.</p> <p>Quite often, when I look at others, who seem to have more privileges, gifts, talents or seem to have less troubles and hardships in their lives, I would complain in my heart on how "unfair" God is. I even felt that God loved them more than He loves me. I am one of those early workers who look on with jealousy at them. I forget to count all the wonderful undeserved blessings He has already given to me.</p> <p>Praise God for His divine uncalculating generosity towards each and every one of us! When we come into His kingdom through Christ, that itself is an unmerited gift and miracle. Everything else after that is bonus. My response should be sheer gratitude, and when I see other people's blessings, may I rejoice with them and not be envious of them. May I too be generous to bless others. When we do, we will find such joy and rest and contentment from all the unhappiness and striving for God's approval.</p>		
APPLICATION REFLECTIONS			
Adult:	How do we think of God? Do we think of Him as a little bit mean or tight-fisted? Or do we think of Him as extraordinarily generous? Consider why we have such a view.		
Youth:	Think of all the ways that you have been blessed by God. Write each blessing down. Think of one way in which you can generously bless one person today/this week.		
Child:	Do you sometimes think your parent(s) treat your siblings better than you, or if you're a single child, do you sometimes think your parent(s) don't love you? Share why you feel this way. Now, write down/draw all the ways your parent(s) do to show their love for		
PRAYER			
Praying Scripture:	Dear Father, we thank You for Your amazing generous heart! For Your Son Jesus and for all the richest blessings we have received from You. Enable us, dear Holy Spirit to show the same generosity to someone this week.		
Thanksgiving Prayer:	I/We thank You for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)		
Intercessory Prayer:	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)		
Salvation Prayer:	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.		