



Gary Inrig – The Parables (Getting My Due)

Read the Chapter in Advance of the Weekly Study. Make a Mental Note or Jot Down Something That Struck You – “Strange, New or Different”.

Week 12 – Read Chapter Twelve: “Getting My Due” – Also Read –Matthew 19:16-30

Opening Prayer: Invite the Lord to be present among you – to open hearts and minds to understand God’s Kingdom Economy as it relates directly to our individual lives. That at this studies conclusion we might be able to walk all of remaining days - with a greater understanding of What’s “Really” - In It for Us?”

Read: Matthew 19:16-30

Overview: In this lesson – Gary poses a question that cuts to the heart of our faith: Why do we serve God? In sharing the story of Bill Borden, a millionaire who gave away his fortune and life for missionary work, and then through the example of **Peter's question to Jesus about rewards**, we're challenged to take a hard look at what our - spiritual motivation is. When Peter asked, 'What's in it for us?' after leaving everything to follow Christ, Jesus didn't rebuke him - instead He pointed out a stark truth about the Kingdom of Heaven. The parable of the workers in the vineyard – shows that God's economy operates on grace and generosity rather than “fair” wages. We learn that serving God isn't about earning our due or competing with other believers, but about trusting in the overwhelming grace and generosity of our Father. The vineyard owner's decision to pay all the workers equally, regardless of ... # of hours worked, reveals something pretty cool about God's character: He rewards not based on *our math* - but on His abundant grace. The point is to challenge us to move beyond a “Quid pro quo” - attitude of faith, where we're constantly calculating what we've given up vs. what we'll receive in return. Instead, we're invited into the freedom of serving not as employees working for wages, but as beloved children (Christ’s friends – His fellow workers) delighting in our Father's work – **here in the Vineyard**. Though it is enlightened “self-interest” to serve the Lord – we don’t do it for that “self-interest” – or what we might think we’ll receive – but only as a worship unto the Lord. That all the payment we ever need may be found in the voice of the Lord one day – saying– “Well done Good and faithful Servant” – Amen!

***"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."
– Jim Elliot (Missionary to the Huaorani of the Ecuadorian Amazon.***

SOME KEY DANGER POINTS To Avoid:

- There is danger in having a “quid pro quo” attitude - treating service to God as a transaction
- The danger of a competitive spirit - comparing ourselves to other believers
- The danger of a complaining spirit - grumbling about God's generosity to others
- Society admonishes us- “win at all costs” – and - “don’t be a loser” ... but- remember -
There is no winning or losing among the brethren in the Kingdom. There’s no “I” in Team!



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What Struck You “Strange, New or Different” - about This Chapter?

2. If you could have any job in the world regardless of pay, what would it be and why?

3. satan accused Job of serving God only for the blessings. How would you honestly answer the question: "Why do I serve the Lord Jesus?" What motivates your Christian service?

4. The 12-hour workers compared themselves to the 1-hour workers and became bitter. When have you found yourself comparing your service, gifts, or blessings to other Christians? What was the result?

5. In the book Gary shares a story of driving with a friend through that guys hometown, and when they came to a confusing intersection – a complete mishmash of different signals/signs & lights — his friend pointed to a sign that read, *Obey **Your** Signals*. Always good advice. What does this mean to you? What are *YOUR* signs – signals or lights? What - has God specifically called and gifted you to do?



6. David Livingstone said his work in Africa was "**anything but a sacrifice**" ... he called it a privilege. How can we foster this attitude of privilege rather than duty in our service to God?
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Things to Do this Week - Try to Put At Least One into Practice

1. **Motive Check:** Set aside 30 minutes for honest self-examination. Journal about what truly motivates your service to God. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any "danger zones" - commercial, competitive, or complaining attitudes.
 2. **Celebrate Others:** Identify one person in your church or life whose gifts or blessings you've envied. Intentionally pray for them daily this week, asking God to increase their impact and bless them even more.
 3. **Reframe Your Service:** Choose one area where you serve (at church, work, home, etc.) and consciously shift your mindset from "I have to" or "I should" ... to "I get to" or "It's a privilege to."
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- **Closing Prayer:** *(this prayer is only a suggestion - please be encouraged to pray your own as the Holy Spirit leads)* – **Note: If there are any needs that have arisen during the study tonight – lift these up - especially.**

Lord God – Thank You for Your overwhelming generosity and grace – help us to have pure motives in serving You! Please help us to be free from comparison and competition with our brethren – give us hearts that delight in You and You alone and never motivated on what we may or may not receive *(here or there with You)* Father, we pray that You give us hearts that always ask – “*what can I do?*” – “what would You have me to do”? and to use the gifts you’ve given me – “to do”. May we always obey - Your “still small voice” to act with hearts that understand it’s not a “have to” – but a “get to” – we pray in Jesus name!