

▼ **Your Seniority Is Not God's Priority - Part 3**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday August 26, 2018

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• **Preliminary Passage: Matthew 19:16-30**

• **This Month's Passage: Matthew 20:1-16**

▼ **Purpose of the Sermon (what listeners should do)**

- Understand the context and flow of the passage.
- Understand what we give up and what we get back.
- Understand the vineyard metaphor.
- Examine our expectations around seniority and privilege.

▼ **Understand the context and flow of the passage.**

- Jesus shares this parable to explain how the last will be first and the first last.
- Jesus offered this statement in order to help his disciples behave compatibly with Kingdom values.
- Peter and the apostles thought wealth was a sign of privilege in the Kingdom and were shocked to hear that it was hard for the rich to enter it.
- Jesus offered the apostles positions of authority in the Kingdom; he also offers everyone in the Kingdom a hundred-fold return on all that they've given up for him.
- Everyone who works in the Kingdom gets the same reward regardless of when they started.
- Those who enter the Kingdom after you will receive the same reward as you.

▼ **Understand what we give up and what we get back.**

- Everyone who has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, fields will receive a hundred times as much and eternal life.

▼ **Understand the vineyard metaphor.**

- Isaiah's Vineyard Song - Isaiah 5:1-7
- The Authority of Jesus Questioned, The Parable of the Two Sons - Matthew 21:23-32
- The Parable of the Tenants - Matthew 21:33-46

▼ **Examine our expectations around seniority and privilege.**

- People expect to receive privileges based on seniority.
- Kingdom values are different from the world's values.
- God's priorities are different.

▼ **Tear down strongholds and impart faith.**

- Tear down strongholds of fear, insecurity, and selfishness.
- Impart faith to adopt Jesus' perspective and the Father's generosity.
- Celebrate when newcomers share our inheritance. - Acts 2:42-47

▼ **Discussion / Reflection Questions:**

- Who are the last who will be first? Who are the first who will be last?
- What does it mean to work in the vineyard?
- Where are you in the parable?