

▼ **Your Seniority Is Not God's Priority - Part 4**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday September 2, 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.
- Examine our expectations around seniority and privilege.
- Understand the vineyard metaphor.

▼ **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.

▼ **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.

▼ **Understand the vineyard metaphor.**

- ▼ Other vineyard references:
  - 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
- ▼ What is the vineyard?
  - The Lord's vineyard is the house of Israel. - Isaiah 5:1-7
  - We have been grafted into Israel. - Romans 11:11-32
  - We who follow Jesus in God's Kingdom are the Lord's vineyard!
- ▼ What does it mean to work in the vineyard?
  - It means producing its fruit. - Matthew 21:33-46
  - The goal is mature fruit - full of nutrients and ready to reproduce!
  - ▼ The work of the vineyard is the work of God's Kingdom.
    - Are you mature?
    - Are you full of nutrients?
    - Are you ready to reproduce?
- ▼ There are only a few basic ways of doing the work of the Kingdom:
  - Worship the King.
  - Live the Kingdom by loving and supporting it's citizens.
  - Announce the Kingdom to outsiders.
  - Demonstrate the Kingdom to outsiders.
  - ▼ Expand the Kingdom by winning outsiders and making disciples.
    - Are you willing to bring others to maturity?
    - Are you willing to help fill others with nutrients?
    - Are you willing to help others reproduce?
    - Are you willing to celebrate when newcomers share our inheritance? - Acts 2:42-47
- ▼ Let's put this into practice!
  - ▼ Tear down strongholds and impart faith.
    - Tear down strongholds that hinder us from Kingdom work.
    - Receive faith to do Kingdom work.
  - How did you work in the vineyard this past week?
  - How will you work in the vineyard this coming week?
- ▶ **Discussion / Reflection Questions:**