

Sermon Discussion Guide



“Hating Grace”

Matthew 19:27–20:16

Ray Cortese, April 11 & 12, 2015

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

- 📖 Read Matthew 19:27–20:16. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Does it bother you that Jeffrey Dahmer is in heaven? Why or why not?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

WE ARE LABOR, NOT MANAGEMENT

- 3 *God is the owner.* Read Romans 9:20-21. Do you believe that everything (that means everything) is under God’s control?
- 4 *God is just.* Read Romans 9:14-16. What is “un-American” about the gospel of salvation by grace alone?

- 5 *God is generous and kind.* What was the point of the illustration of the San Diego Padres' baseball player?
- 6 *God's kindness offends us.* Why did Jonah run when God told him to go to Ninevah? Who is someone you might be hesitant to share the gospel with because the thought of them being in heaven offends you? How is God a "prodigal" God?

WE HAVE DELUSIONS OF MERIT

- 7 What makes us think that we are like the 12 hour workers in the parable? Do you live life with a sense of entitlement? How do we act entitled with God?
- 8 Do you have a judgmental and/or critical spirit? How can we learn how to be quick to see ourselves as the biggest sinners?

WE ARE THE ONE-HOUR WORKERS

- 9 Have you been a Christian for a long time? If so, how do you keep from forgetting that grace is amazing?
- 10 How would you respond if your daughter came home from college pregnant? How did the father's response in Ray's story illustrate the gospel?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ☞ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ☑ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?