

09-20-26 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“God's gift is sheer grace. In the Kingdom of God the principles of merit and ability may be set aside, so that the principle of grace triumphs. We are workers for the Kingdom of God and being chosen to be Kingdom workers entails joyous privilege.”

Hakyoung Cho Kim



Matthew 20:1-16

Questions for Reflection —

- What does it mean to be "first" or "last" in the eyes of the world as contrasted to what it means in the kingdom of God? In what ways are the world's priorities and values turned upside down by God's perspective? What do you think it looks like for the last to be first and the first to be last? How would you contrast God's grace and generosity with human secular understandings of fairness? If our society followed the principle that the last are first, what would change about public policy? What role might we as a congregation take to ensure that the last are put first in the broader community?
- In what situations are you tempted to adopt an attitude of "me-first"? What might help you to put others first in those situations? Who are the "last" in your immediate circles—in your family, workplace/school, neighborhood or wider community? What action(s) can you personally take to put those people first? What would it look like for you to live as the "last" in those settings?
- Do you tend to view your blessings as God's gifts or as something you somehow deserve or have earned? How does that viewpoint affect your attitude towards the blessings God bestows on others? How do you express your gratitude for God's grace and mercy? Have you ever coveted what someone else has received from God? When are you most tempted to compare your blessings, spiritual gifts, or life circumstances to others? What will help you rejoice in God's generosity to all?

Daily Household Prayer

God of the first and the last, and all those in between, Your grace reaches out to all of us—life-long believers or newcomers alike. You call us to live as citizens of heaven, to work together with one mind and one purpose, to reach out in love to those in need. Strengthen us so that we might live in a manner worthy of the Good News we have received, offering our lives to the building up of Your upside-down kingdom, where the last are first, and the first are last, and there is grace enough for all. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, Amen.