

Silver Creek Fellowship NOTES

February 8

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW THE IMPOSSIBLE GRACE OF GOD

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Matthew 19:13-22 (NIV) The Little Children and Jesus “Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’ ¹⁵ When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

The Rich and the Kingdom of God

16 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, ‘Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?’ ¹⁷ ‘Why do you ask me about what is good?’ Jesus replied. ‘There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.’ ‘Which ones?’ he inquired. Jesus replied, ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, ¹⁹ honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself.’ ²⁰ ‘All these I have kept,’ the young man said. ‘What do I still lack?’ ²¹ Jesus answered, ‘If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.’ ²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

☒ **Jesus receives the humble.**

☒ **Jesus rejects the proud.**

Matthew 19:23-26 (NIV) “Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’ ²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, ‘Who then can be saved?’ ²⁶ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”

☒ **Life Point: Salvation is a free gift of divine grace totally devoid of human merit.**

Matthew 19:27-30 (NIV) “Peter answered him, ‘We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?’ ²⁸ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.’”

Matthew 20:1-5 (NIV) The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire

workers for his vineyard. ²He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. ³About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' ⁵So they went. He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing."

☒ **Compassion for the unemployed men in the market kept driving the owner back.**

Matthew 20:6-8 (NIV) "About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' ⁷'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'"

Ezekiel 34:11-16 (NIV) The Good Shepherd "For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search and find my sheep. ¹²I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock. I will find my sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day. ¹³I will bring them back home to their own land of Israel from among the peoples and nations. I will feed them on the mountains of Israel and by the rivers and in all the places where people live. ¹⁴Yes, I will give them good pastureland on the high hills of Israel. There they will lie down in pleasant places and feed in the lush pastures of the hills. ¹⁵I myself will tend my sheep and give them a place to lie down in peace, says the Sovereign Lord. ¹⁶I will search for my lost ones who strayed away, and I will bring them safely home again. I will bandage the injured and strengthen the weak. But I will destroy those who are fat and powerful. I will feed them, yes—feed them justice!"

Luke 19:10 (NIV) "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

Matthew 20:9-15 (NIV) "The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹²'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' ¹³But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?' ¹⁴Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'"

"The gospel of grace... obliterates the two-class citizenship theory operative in many American churches. For grace proclaims the awesome truth that all is gift. All that is good is ours, not by right, but by the sheer bounty of a gracious God... Jesus comes not for the super-spiritual but for the wobbly and the weak-kneed who know they don't have it all together, and who are not too proud to accept the handout of amazing grace." — **Brennan Manning, The Ragamuffin Gospel**

Matthew 20:16 (NIV) "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

☒ **Jesus, the rightful first, became the last so that we, who deserve to be last, could be made first.**

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