

# “Sour Grace”

Based on Matthew 20:1-16 (NIV)

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching  
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*Matthew 20:1-2*

1 (Jesus said,) "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard.

2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

† **A denarius is a normal days wage for a laborer in Jesus' time.**

† **This parable has nothing to do with the business world or labor / management relations.**

*Matthew 20:1a - (Jesus said,) "For the kingdom of heaven is like ..."*

† **This parable deals with what God is like.**

*Matthew 20:1b - "... a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard."*

† **The point of this parable is that God is a generous God.**

*Matthew 20:11-13*

11 When 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.'

13 "But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?'

† **The early workers complained because the landowner was so generous.**

† **God is generous to everyone who follows His will, including me, only God does it in different ways for different people.**

*Matthew 20:15 - 'Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'*

† **I am not to live my life solely to see what I can get from God.**

† **God has been very generous to me.**

**Applying Today's Message to My Life:**

† What do I complain about?

† If I had been one of the first hired, how would I feel about the landowner?

† When have I complained that God was too generous to someone else?

† When has God been too generous to me?

† What is one way I can thank God for his generosity to me this week?