

“God is Gracious”

Tell me about the God you don't believe in.

Let me tell you about the God I wish you knew.

God is gracious.

Matthew 20:1-16 NLT

“For the Kingdom of Heaven is like the landowner who went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work.

“At nine o'clock in the morning he was passing through the marketplace and saw some people standing around doing nothing. So he hired them, telling them he would pay them whatever was right at the end of the day. So they went to work in the vineyard. At noon and again at three o'clock he did the same thing.

“At five o'clock that afternoon he was in town again and saw some more people standing around. He asked them, ‘Why haven't you been working today?’

“They replied, ‘Because no one hired us.’

“The landowner told them, ‘Then go out and join the others in my vineyard.’

“That evening he told the foreman to call the workers in and pay them, beginning with the last workers first. When those hired at five o'clock were paid, each received a full day's wage. When those hired first came to get their pay, they assumed they would receive more. But they, too, were paid a day's wage. When they received their pay, they protested to the owner, ‘Those people worked only one hour, and yet you've paid them just as much as you paid us who worked all day in the scorching heat.’

“He answered one of them, ‘Friend, I haven't been unfair! Didn't you agree to work all day for the usual wage? Take your money and go. I wanted to pay this last worker the same as you. Is it against the law for me to do what I want with my money? Should you be jealous because I am kind to others?’

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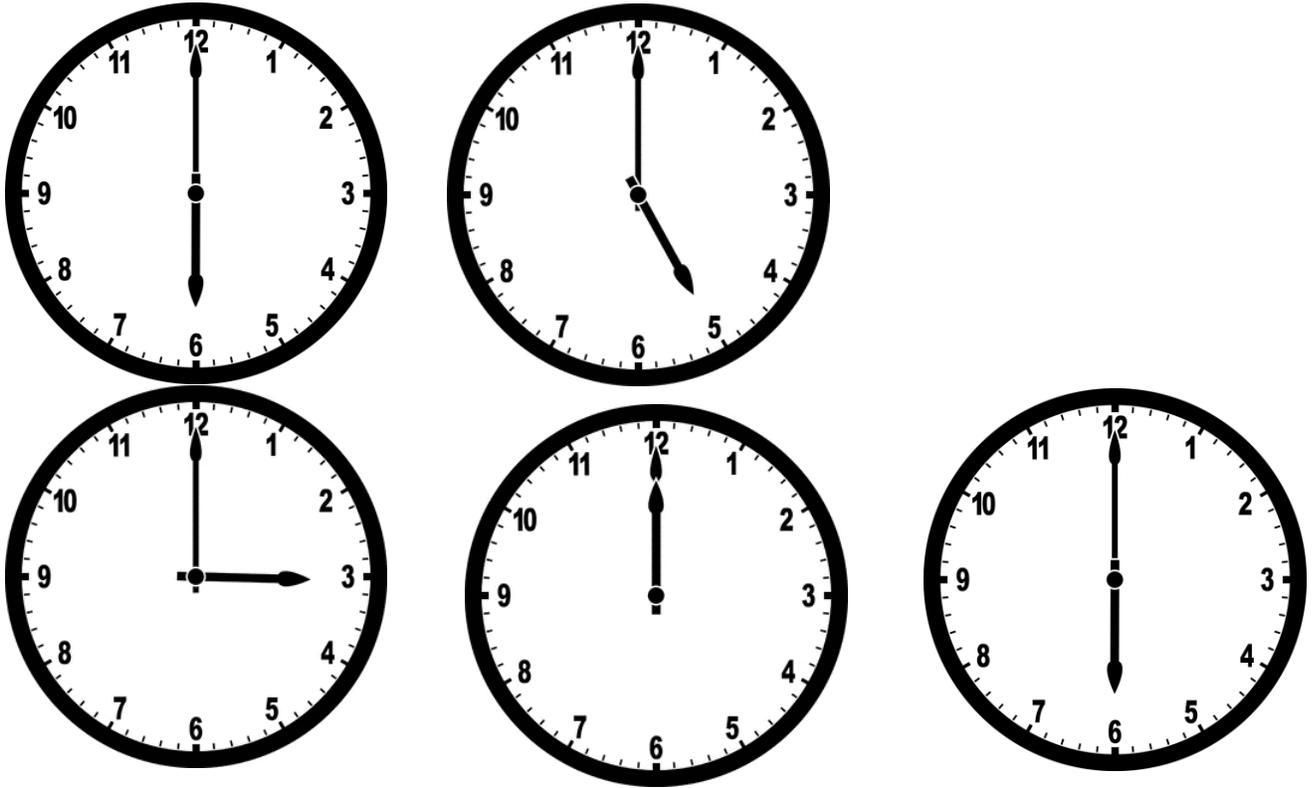
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“So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last.”



Justice is getting what I deserve.

Mercy is not getting what I deserve.

Grace is getting what I don't deserve.

Romans 6:23 NLT

For the **wages of sin** is death, but the free **gift of God** is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

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God's child

God's workmanship

God's friend

God's vessel

God's witness

God's ambassador

God's instrument

Chosen

Forgiven

Adopted

Complete

Sanctified

Loved eternally

Light

A city on a hill

More than a conqueror

Healed

Sheltered

Constantly in His mind

At peace

Favored

God's designed

Significant

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Lavishly loved

Accepted

His

Clothed in Christ

Galatians 3:27 NLT

And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes.

You need **amazing grace**

Isaiah 53:6 NLT

All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.

You are **saved by grace**

Ephesians 2:8 NLT

God saved you by his **grace** when you **believed**. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

Buried with Christ

Colossians 2:11-12 NLT

When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. For you were **buried** with Christ when you were **baptized**. And with him you were **raised to new life** because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

Romans 6:3-4 NLT

Have you forgotten that when **we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism**, we joined him in his death? For we died and were **buried** with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was **raised** from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

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