

## Wednesday

Read: **Matthew 20:8-12** *Payday*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What would you think of an employer who paid employees in this way? Fair? Unfair?*
2. *What do the workers say they are most upset about?*

**Prayer Focus** Fear of missing out. Fear of others being treated equally when we know we worked harder. Fear of letting go of “the rules.” Forgive us our fears, Gracious God. Give us the freedom of knowing your love, instead.

## Thursday

Read: **Matthew 20:13-14** *Owner’s choice*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Do you think the workers would have complained if no other workers had shown up? What makes the difference?*
2. *Have you ever been tempted to tell God what is right or wrong? Did you change your mind?*

**Prayer Focus** We rejoice in your unfailing generosity, steadfast God. Forgive us when we try to tell you that others are not worthy of your gifts. Teach us to free ourselves from blaming, and give thanks that you don’t see the world through anyone’s eyes but yours.

## Friday

Read: **Matthew 20:15-16** *First and last*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How does God justify God’s generosity?*
2. *How might we expand our own generosity, right here and now, just as we are?*

**Prayer Focus** Great God, we know we forget who you are and what you give us so generously, just because we’re yours. Remind us of the ones who are living as the last in our world. Guide our steps to them. Help us have the courage to live our lives with open hands.

## Make Use of Now

Pastor’s message: 1 Corinthians 7:21-23; Matthew 20:1-16

Message Notes:



## Small Group Format

### Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *What is the hardest job you've ever had?*

### Opening Prayer

### Song (optional)

### Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **1 Corinthians 21-23; Matthew 20:1-16**

- Discuss observations about the text
  - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
  - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

*Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)*

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

### Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

### Pray for each other

### Refreshments (optional)

## **MAKE USE OF NOW** **SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**

### Monday

**Read: 1 Corinthians 7:21-23** *One in Christ*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Do you think Paul is dismissing slavery as unimportant?*
2. *What does it mean "make use" of our present condition as followers of Christ?*

**Prayer Focus** You call on all of us, no matter our status, to be yours and to serve you above all. Let us see that we don't need to hang back or wait be better before we answer you. Help us make use of where and when we are, right now.

### Tuesday

**Read: Matthew 20:1-7** *The landowner hires workers*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why do you think the landowner goes out so many different times during the day?*
2. *Could there have been any reason why the late workers had not been hired by the other landowners?*

**Prayer Focus** We don't need to hang out in the parking lot, waiting for you to come and hire us, giving God. Your love is already ours and we know we can't earn it or lose it. Your generosity is amazing.