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By Dan Maines

Matthew 20

Matthew 20:1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. When he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and to those he said, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' And so they went. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did the same thing. And about the

eleventh hour he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day long?' They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' Now when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, starting with the last group to the first.' When those hired about the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. And so when those hired first came, they thought that they would receive more; but they also received a denarius. When they received it, they grumbled at the landowner, saying, 'These who were hired last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he answered and said to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go; but I want to give to this last person the same as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I want with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?' So the last shall be first, and the first, last."

† The parable of the laborers showed God's sovereignty and generosity.

† Israel, though first called, would see Gentiles receive the same kingdom blessing.

† The reversal of first and last revealed the covenantal shift fulfilled in their generation.

Matthew 20:17-19

As Jesus was about to go up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and on the road He said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and they will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and flog and crucify, and on the third day He will be raised up."

- † Jesus clearly foretold His passion, death, and resurrection.
- † This was the center of His mission and the foundation of the fulfilled kingdom.
- † Fulfillment required suffering, not earthly glory.

Matthew 20:20-28

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Him with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him. And He said to her, "What do you desire?" She said to Him, "Say that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine shall sit, one at Your right, and one at Your left." But Jesus replied, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to Him, "We are able." He said to them, "My cup you shall drink, but to sit at My right and at My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father." And after hearing this, the other ten became indignant with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles domineer over them, and those in high position exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wants to become prominent among you shall be your servant, and whoever desires to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

- † The disciples sought status, but Jesus defined greatness as servanthood.
- † The kingdom operates on humility and sacrifice, not worldly power.
- † Jesus' own mission was to serve and to give His life as a ransom, fulfilled at the cross.

Matthew 20:29-34

As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed Him. And two people who were blind, sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" The crowd sternly told them to be quiet, but they

cried out all the more, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" And Jesus stopped and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Lord, we want our eyes to be opened." Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him.

† The blind men recognized Jesus as Son of David, a Messianic title, while the crowd tried to silence them.

† Their persistence and faith brought healing, proving Christ's compassion and authority.

† Spiritual blindness in Israel contrasted with the faith of these two men, pointing to the fulfilled shift from unbelief to true sight in Christ.

How it applies to us today:

† Matthew 20 reminds us that God's kingdom operates on His generosity, not human merit. The fulfilled perspective shows us the covenantal shift where Gentiles entered the promises on equal footing with Israel. Greatness is found in service, modeled by Christ who gave His life as a ransom. The healing of the blind men reminds us that faith opens eyes to the reality of the kingdom. Today, in the fulfilled kingdom, we live as servants who trust God's grace, follow the suffering Messiah, and rejoice in the reversal of first and last.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Josephus, Antiquities 18.5.2

† Tacitus, Histories 5.13

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho 49

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 4.13.3

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