A woman in a straw hat and dark clothing is smiling and holding a large wicker basket filled with dark grapes. She is in a vineyard with other workers in the background. The scene is set in a rural area with buildings and trees in the distance.

PORTRAITS OF GRACE

Matthew 20

The price of following Jesus is high



They gave up everything



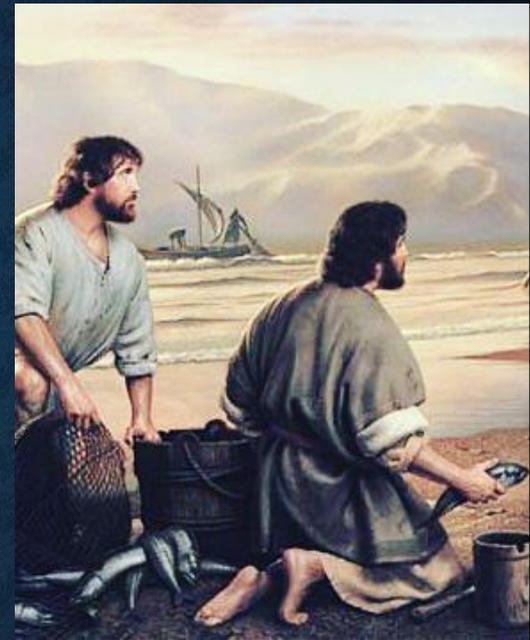
He would not give up everything

**THE JUDEAN MINISTRY PRIOR TO TRIUMPHAL
ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM**

THE PARADOX OF GRACE

Matthew 19:26 (ESV) But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

Matthew 19:30 (ESV) But many who are first will be last, and the last first.



PORTRAITS OF GRACE MATTHEW 20

THE NATURE OF GRACE

Grace always seems unfair

Grace is only unfair when
evaluated along the lines of
human effort

Grace only makes sense when
seen from the perspective of
our need and God's
generosity

Only Grace can induce a
genuine spiritual response

PARABLE ABOUT



Human Resource management tips

The perils of not having workers unions

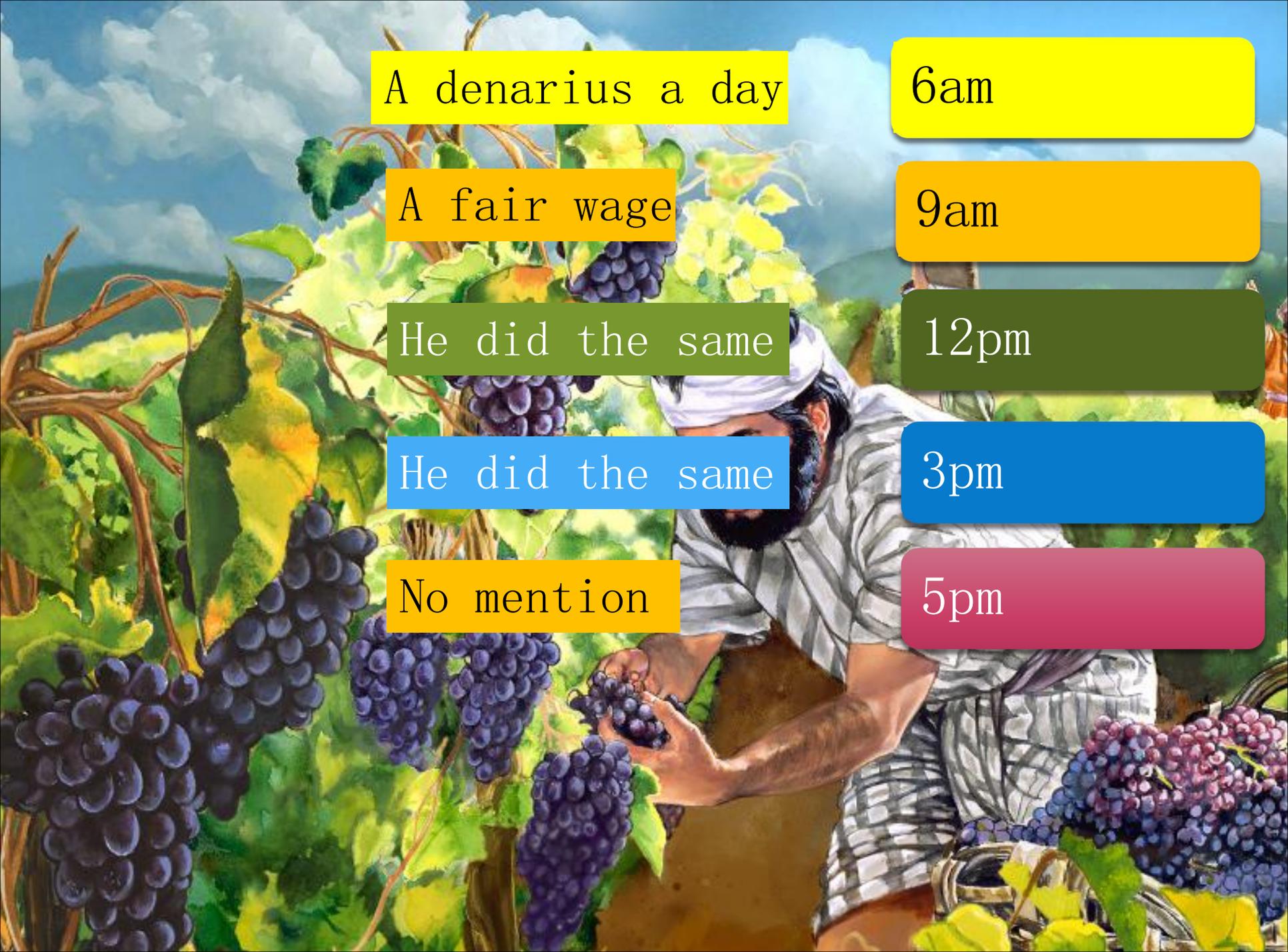
Affirmative action

Jealous workers

WHAT THE PARABLE IS ABOUT

Matthew 20:1 (ESV) For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

HOW THE KINGDOM WORKS
BASED ON THE CHARACTER OF THE KING



A denarius a day

6am

A fair wage

9am

He did the same

12pm

He did the same

3pm

No mention

5pm



GENEROUS PAY

Matthew 20:9 (ESV) And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.





1 day's daily living allowance



5 day's daily living allowance



REVERSAL OF THE ORDER OF PRIORITY

Matthew 20:8 (ESV) And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’

EQUAL PAY



Matthew 20:10 (ESV) Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius.



**IT'S NOT
FAIR!**

REASONABLE COMPLAINT?



Matthew 20:11-12 (ESV) And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 12 saying, 'These 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.'

THE ISSUE AT HAND

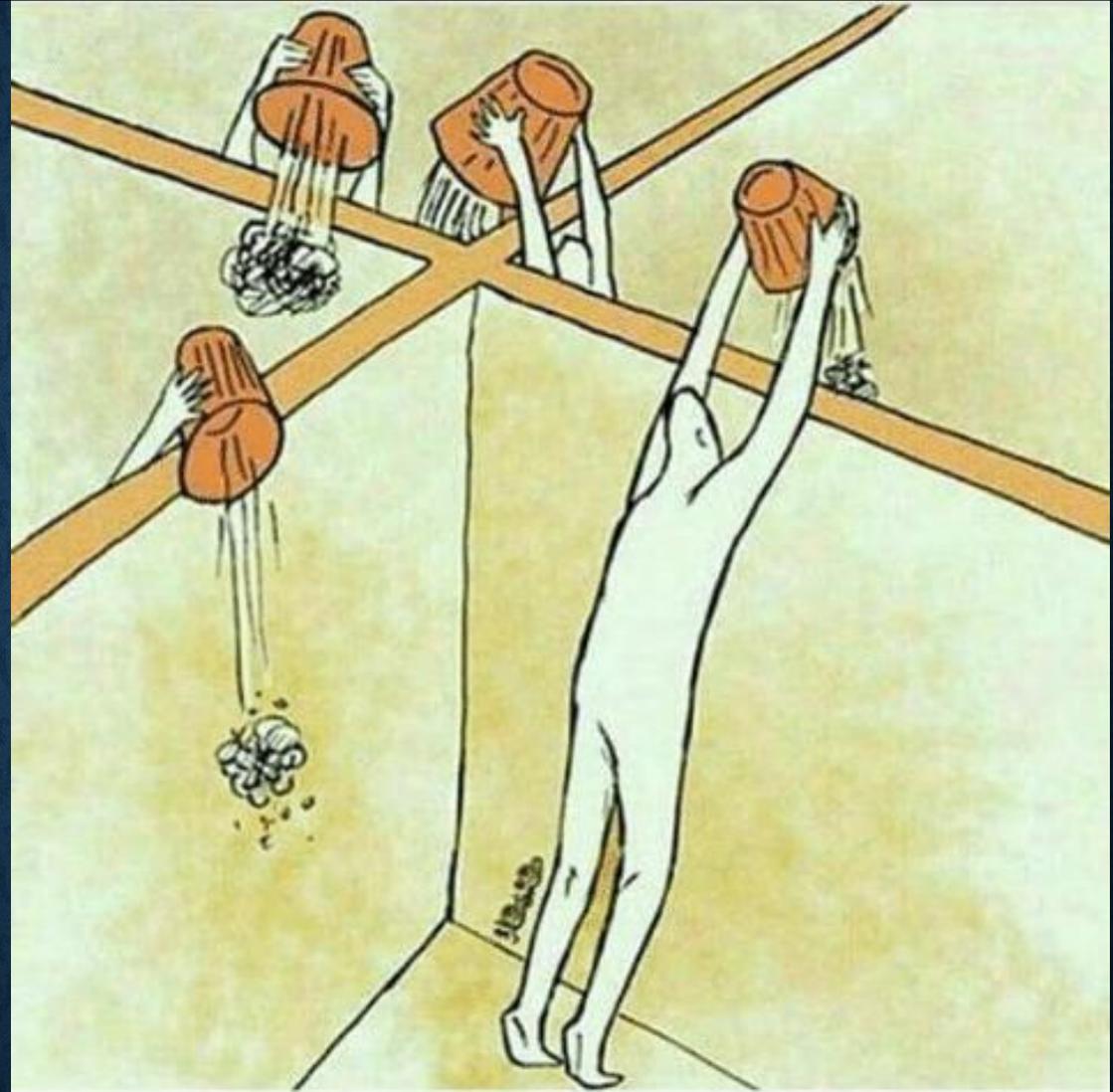


Matthew 20:10 (ESV) Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a green gas nozzle, which is inserted into the fuel tank of a white car. The background is blurred, showing other cars and a gas station environment. The text "THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS" is overlaid in the upper right corner.

THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS

WE EXPECT GOD TO WORK THIS WAY TOO



Karma

You get what you do

A dramatic sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with golden and orange clouds, with the sun low on the horizon. In the foreground, a sailboat with a large white sail is on the right. In the middle ground, a person is seen falling or floating in the water. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

JONAH

Sermon Series + June 7 - 28

asburylv.org/jonah





The Prodigal Son



Psalms 73:1-3 (ESV) Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.



2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped.

3 For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.



Psalms 73:4–6 (ESV) For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.

5 They are not in trouble as others are;

they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.

6 Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment.



Psalms 73:8 (ESV) They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression.

Najib offers lavish benefits ahead of Malaysia p





**FORMER 1MDB NON-
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TAN
SRI ISMEE ISMAIL**

had a change of heart after he was shown a flow chart by lead prosecutor Datuk Seri Gopal Sri Ram on several convoluted monetary transactions that went through a series of layering processes.



Roger Ng - guilty face 30 years

MALAYSIAN COURT OF APPEAL
JUDGE MOHD NAZLAN MOHD
GHAZALI IS BEING INVESTIGATED

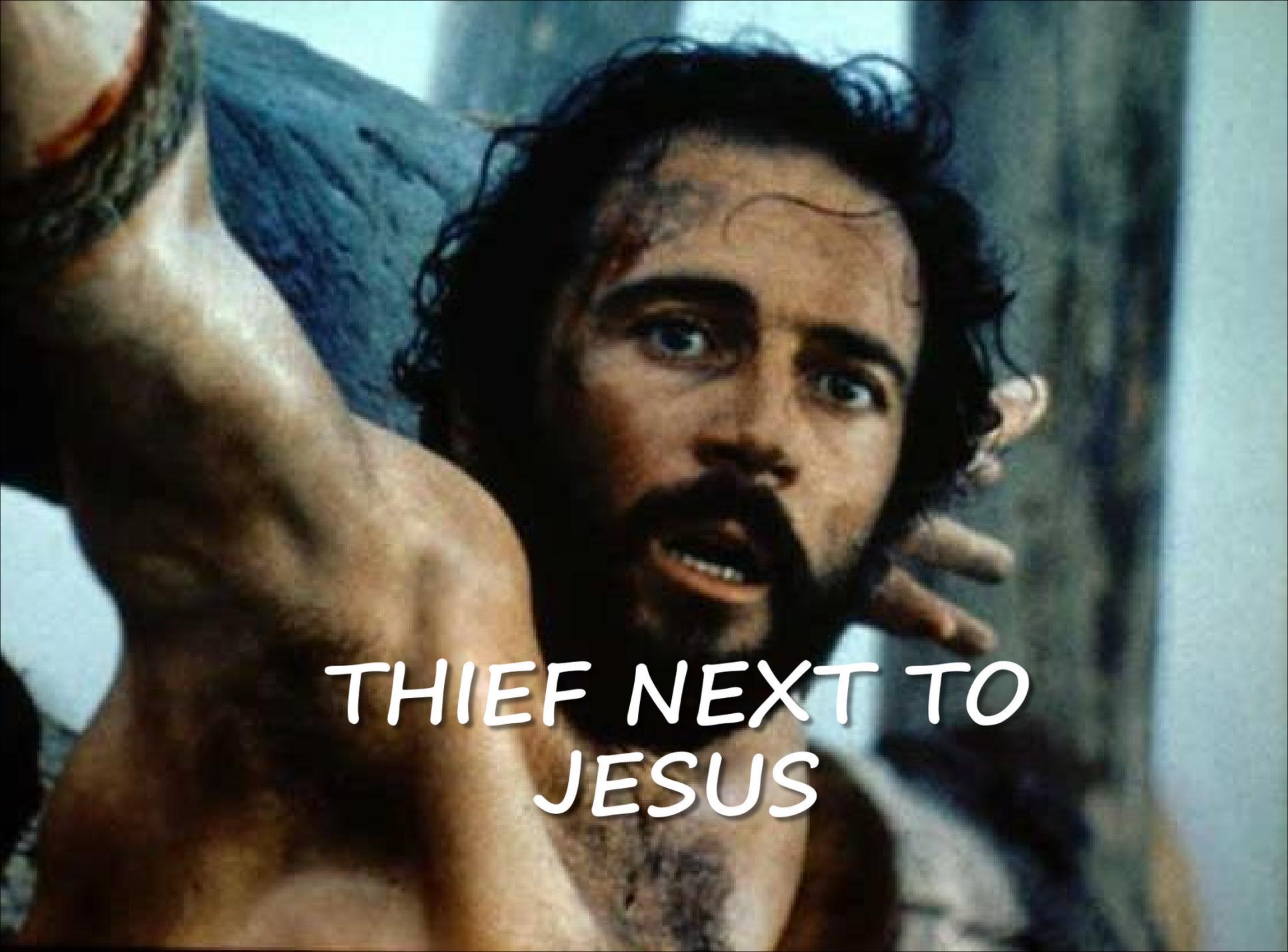


Psalms 73:10–13 (ESV) Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them.

11 And they say, “How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?”

12 Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.

13 All in vain have I kept my heart clean

A close-up photograph of a man with long, dark, wavy hair and a full beard. He has a look of intense distress or fear, with wide eyes and a slightly open mouth. A blue, textured cloth is draped over his right shoulder. The background is out of focus, showing what appears to be a stone or concrete wall.

THIEF NEXT TO
JESUS

THE NATURE OF GRACE

Grace always seems unfair

Grace is only unfair when
evaluated along the lines of
human effort

Grace only makes sense when
seen from the perspective of
our need and God's
generosity

Only Grace can induce a
genuine spiritual response



PERCEPTION

No War crimes in Bucha
Special military op
Ukraine is part of Russia
Nazis rule Ukraine

REALITY

A LOT OF PAIN

WHAT WE DESERVE=OUR EFFORT



Matthew 20:10 Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius.



Matthew 20:11-12 (ESV) And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 12 saying, 'These 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.'





Psalms 73:12 Behold, these are the
wicked; always at ease, they increase
in riches.

13 All in vain have I kept my heart
clean

and washed my hands in innocence.

WE DESERVE MORE

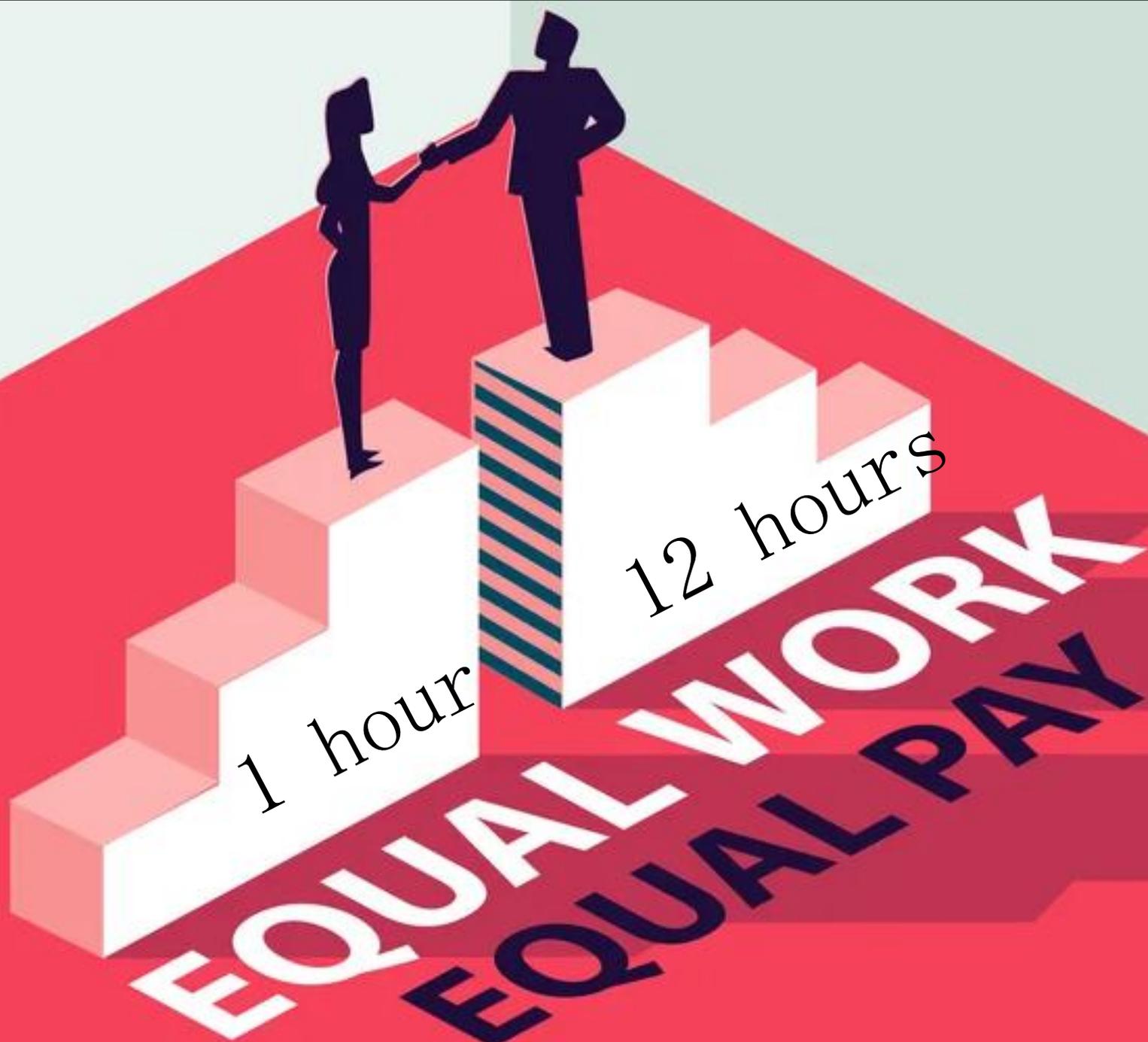
6 am Shift



WHAT EVER OWNER
THINKS IS FAIR

All other Shifts





1 hour

12 hours

EQUAL WORK
EQUAL PAY

WHAT WE THINK GOD SHOULD DO

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW
THE INNOCENT TO
SUFFER?





Illness
War
Lost Job
Lost Spouse



Only moved by Levites
Carried on shoulder not cart
Cannot touch it

2 Samuel 6:8–10 (ESV) And David was angry because the LORD had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day. 9 And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and he said, “How can the ark of the LORD come to me?”

We take credit for what we never earned

October 15 2015



WE OVER ESTIMATE OUR VALUE



Matthew 20:13-14 (ESV) But he replied to one of them, Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you.

Why I killed Jeffrey Dahmer By [Jamie Schram](#)



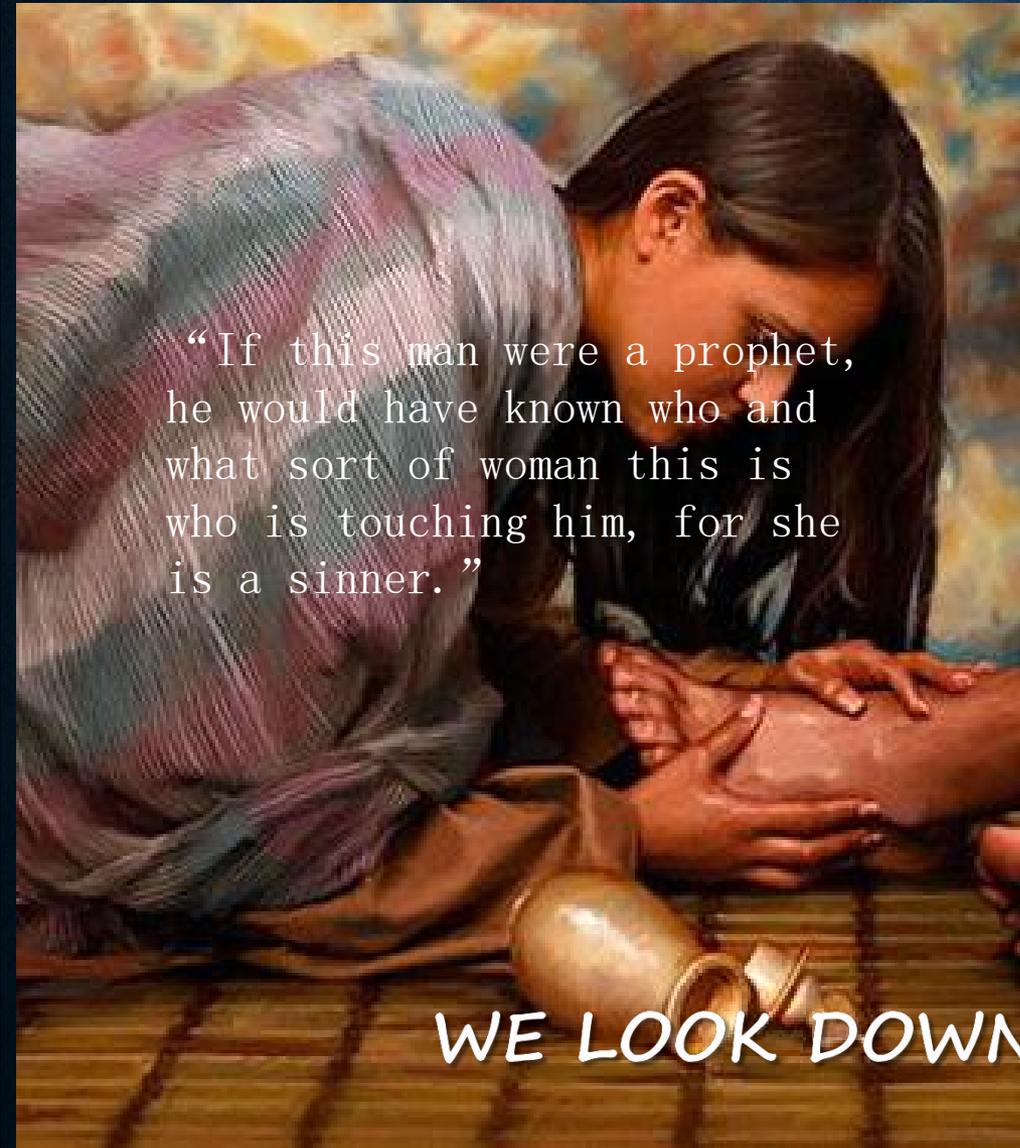
Christopher Scarver



CHRISTOPHER SCARVER

“I asked
him if he
did those
things ’ cau
se I was
fiercely
disgusted”

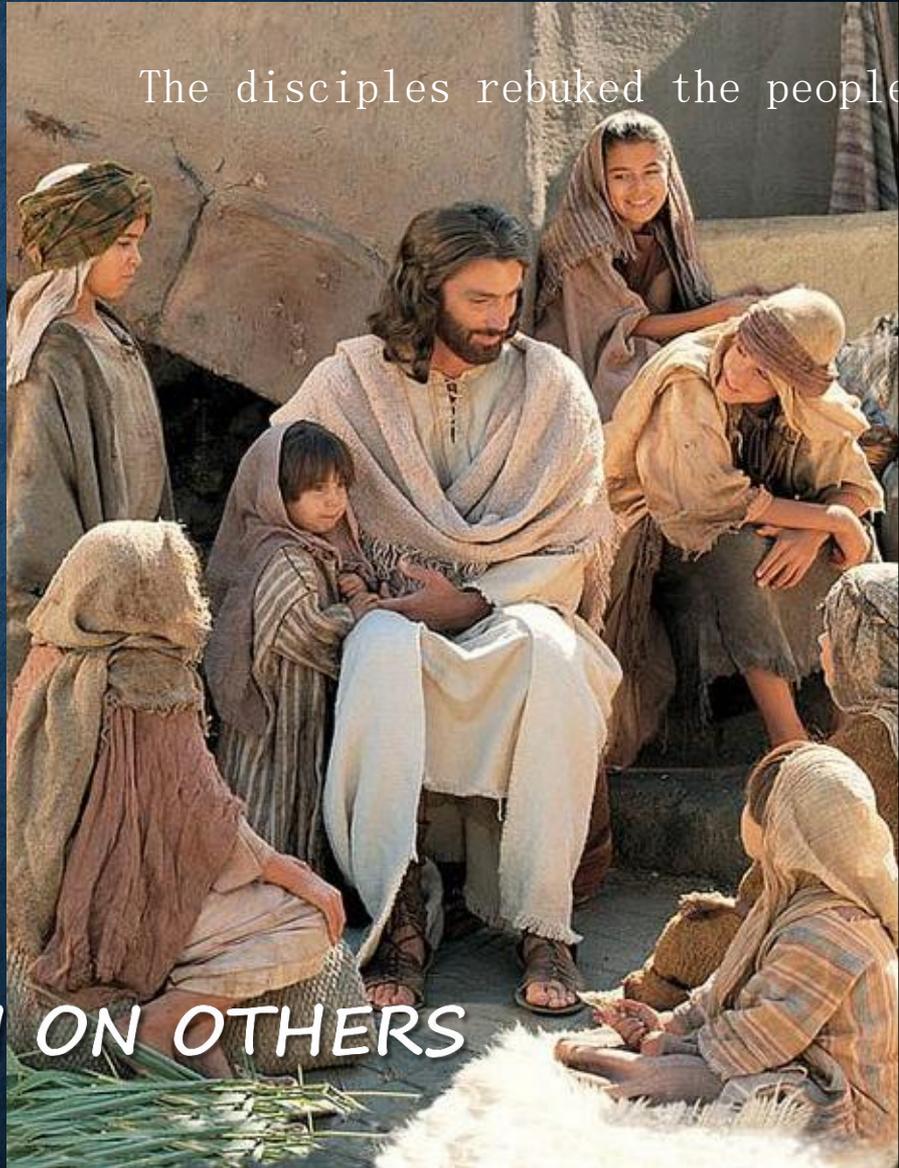
LUKE 7:37-38



“If this man were a prophet,
he would have known who and
what sort of woman this is
who is touching him, for she
is a sinner.”

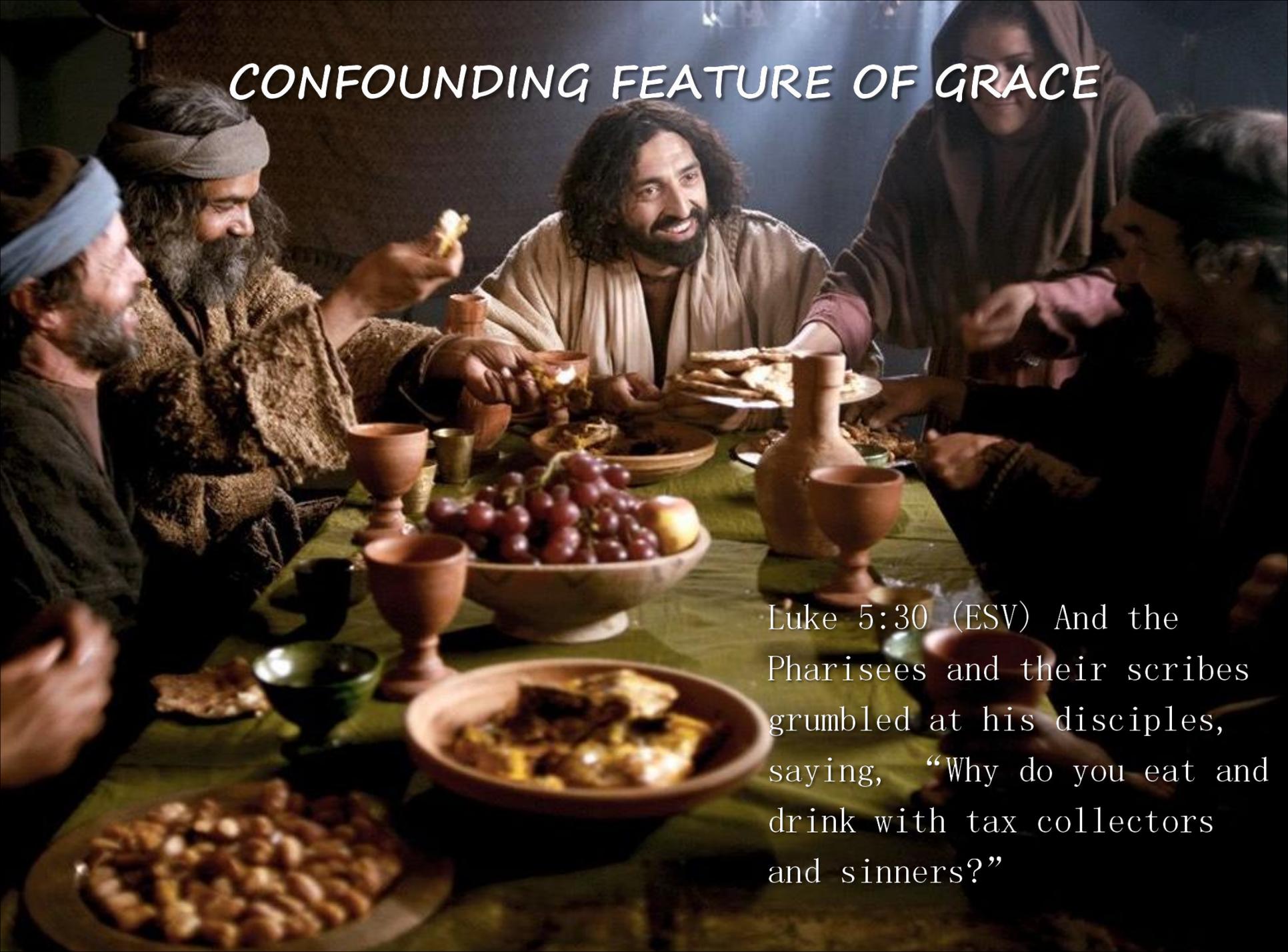
WE LOOK DOWN ON OTHERS

MATT 19:13-15



The disciples rebuked the people

CONFOUNDING FEATURE OF GRACE



Luke 5:30 (ESV) And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

THE REALITY

THIS IS GOD'S WORLD

Matthew 20:15–16 (ESV) Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' 16 So the last will be first, and the first last."

The matter is not what you did , got but what God gave



D.A. CARSON

*“Do you really
want nothing but
totally
effective,
instantaneous
justice?”*



REALITY

*“Then go
to hell”*

*GOD'S REALITY
THE REVERSAL OF ORDER*

Matt 19:30 first will be last, and the last first

Parable of the
Vineyard

Matt 20:16 So the last will be first, and the first

OUR PERCEPTUAL PROBLEMS

Genesis 3:5 For
God knows that
when you eat of
it your eyes
will be opened,
and you will be
like God,
knowing good
and evil.”



PERCEPTION



CAN
MAN BECOME
GOD

YOU GET TO DECIDE WHAT IS FAIR





RICH YOUNG MAN—VS MATT TAX COLLECTOR

“A low view of law always produces legalism; a high view of law makes a person a seeker after grace.”

J. Gresham Machen



JESUS TOOK A HIGH VIEW OF THE LAW- SPIRIT OF THE LAW

Matthew 5:27-28 (ESV) You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

THE REACTION TO GRACE



Matt 20:11 And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 12 saying, 'These 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.'

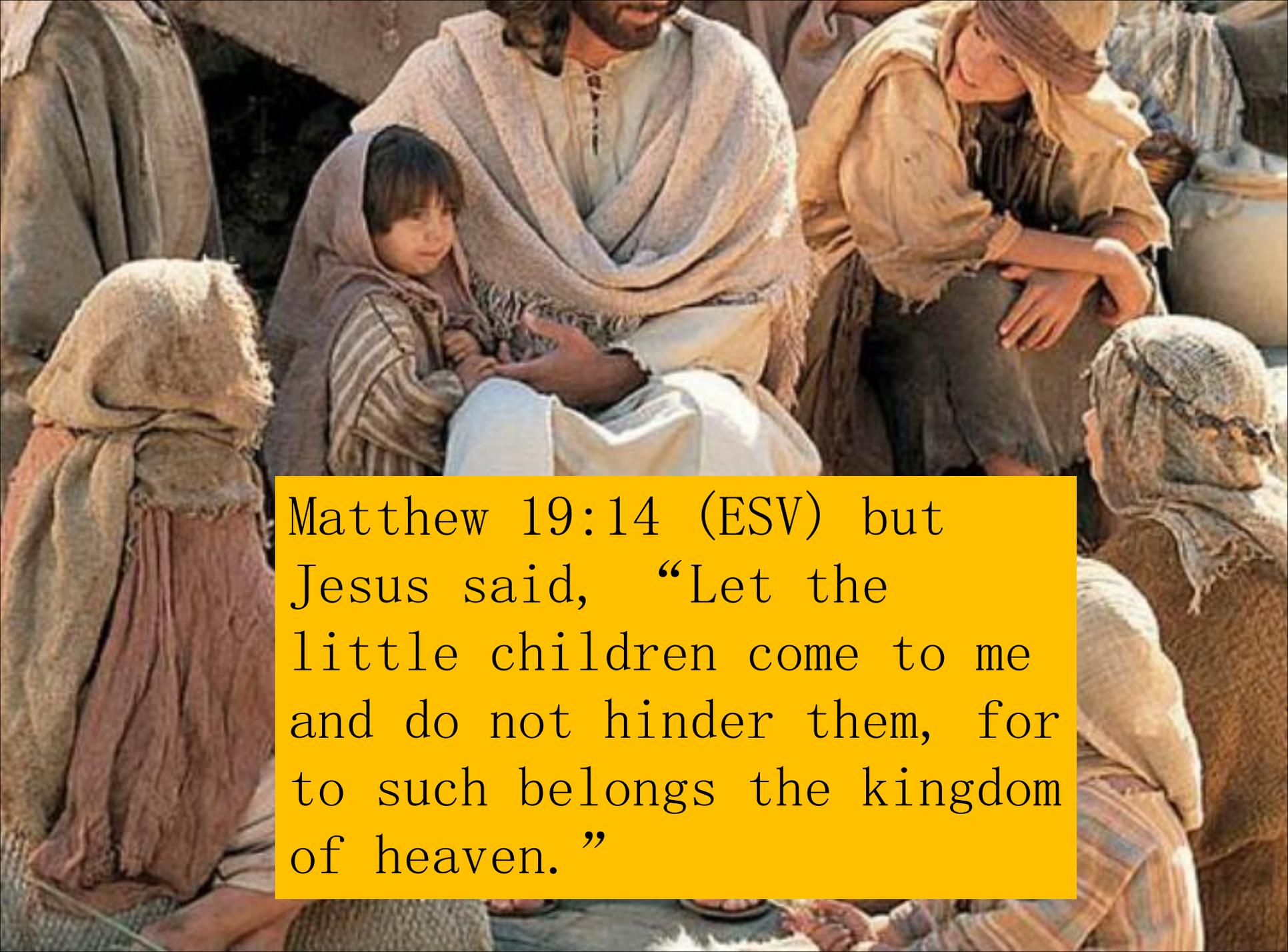
THE NATURE OF GRACE

Grace always seems unfair

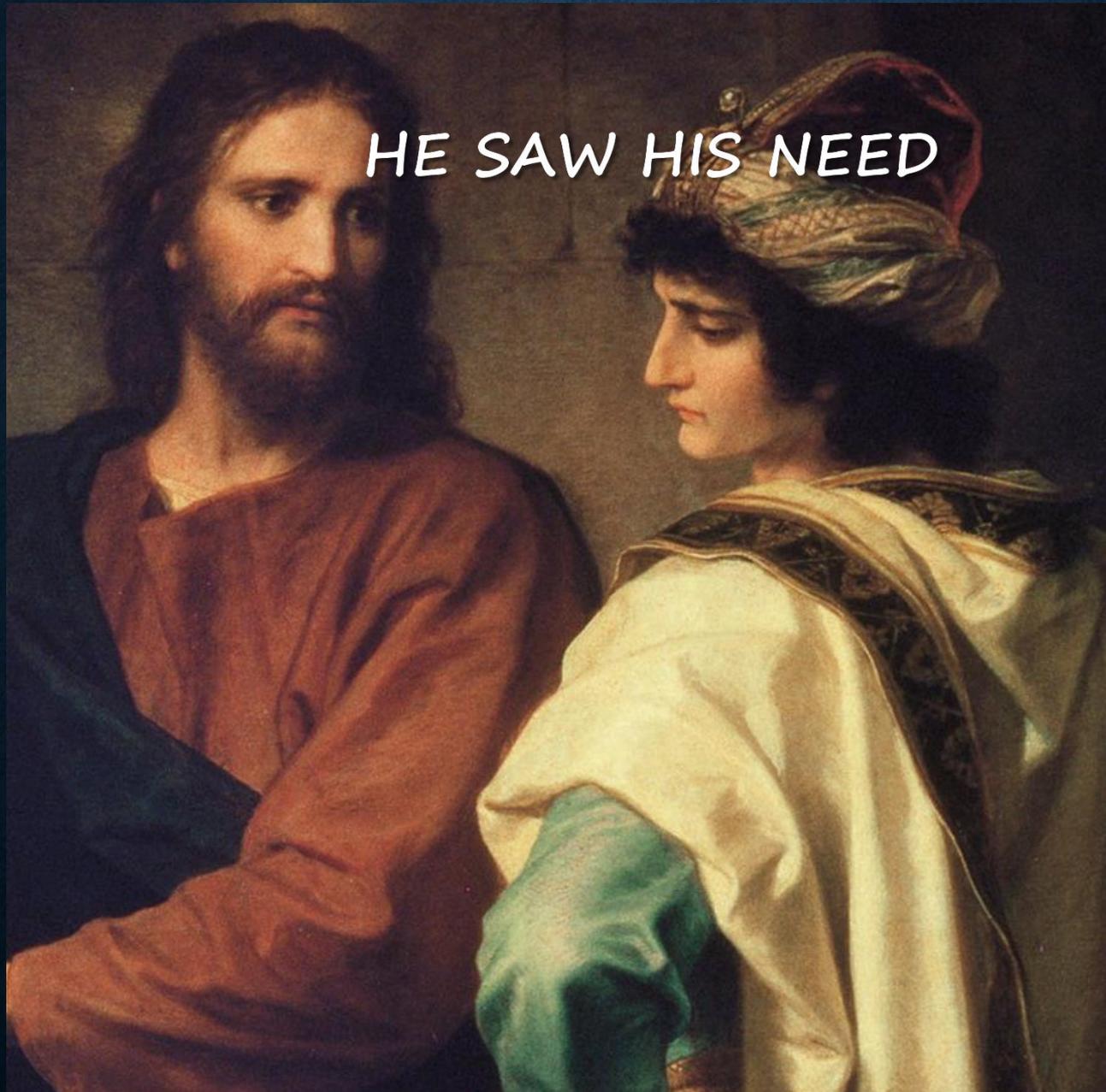
Grace is only unfair when
evaluated along the lines of
human effort

Grace only makes sense when
seen from the perspective of
our need and God's
generosity

Only Grace can induce a
genuine spiritual response



Matthew 19:14 (ESV) but
Jesus said, “Let the
little children come to me
and do not hinder them, for
to such belongs the kingdom
of heaven.”



HE SAW HIS NEED

He would
not give up
everything

*GRACE IS GOD'S PREROGATIVE
NOT YOUR RIGHT*



Matthew 19:26 (ESV) But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”



HIS SOVEREIGN RIGHT

Matt 20:15 Am I not allowed to do
what I choose with what belongs
to me?



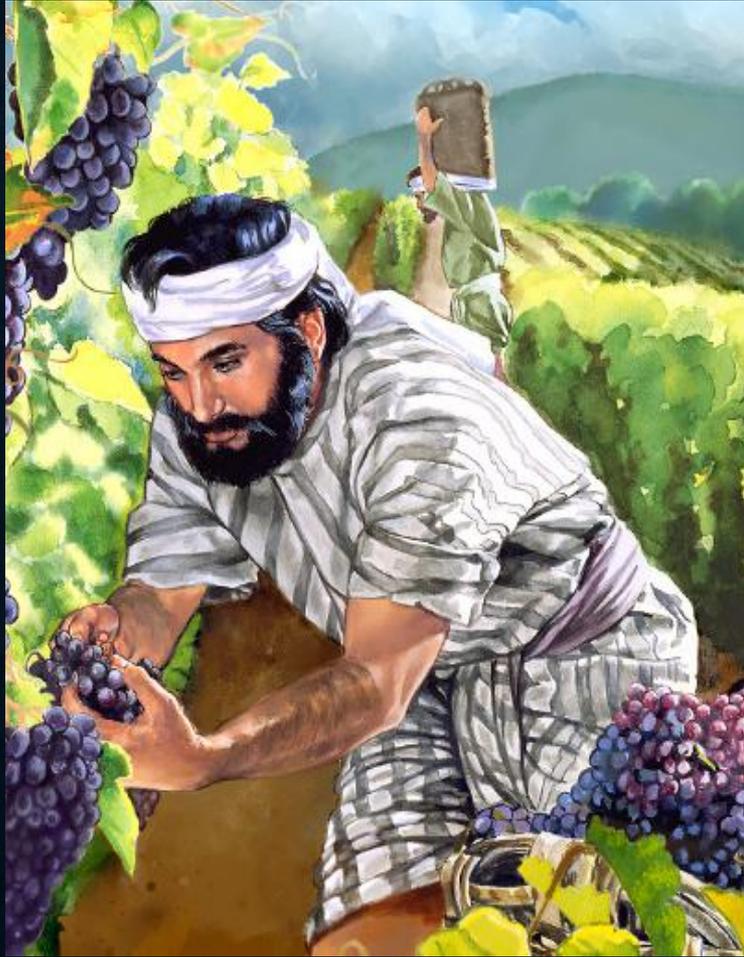
ITS ABOUT THE MASTER

Matthew 20:1 (ESV) For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.



Romans 9:20–21 (ESV) But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?

HE ACTS ACCORDING TO NEEDS



Deuteronomy 24:15 You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the LORD, and you be guilty of sin

“if you could do us a quick solid and accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior? ... Personal Lord and Savior. It’s a quick prayer.”



BABYLONBEE.COM

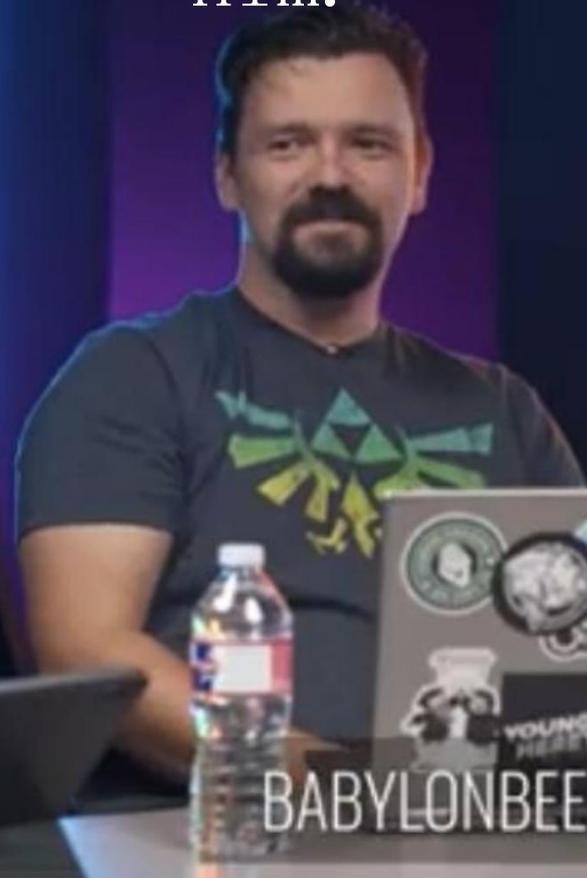


“I believe in Spinoza’s God who reveals himself in the orderly harmony of what exists, not in a God who concerns himself with fates and actions of human beings.”

Musk added, “But hey, if Jesus is saving people, I mean, I won’t stand in His way. Sure, I’ll be saved. Why not?”



“I think he just said yes,
“We got him.”



BABYLONBEE.COM



GRACE IS DISPENSED ACCORDING TO GOD CHARACTER AND NATURE

Matthew 20:15–16 (ESV) Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity? 16 So the last will be first, and the first last.”

Is your eye evil if I am good



PERSPECTIVE

Matthew 6:22–23 (ESV) The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, 23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.



HOW WE VIEW THE WORLD

Matthew 6:21 (ESV) For where
your treasure is, there your
heart will be also



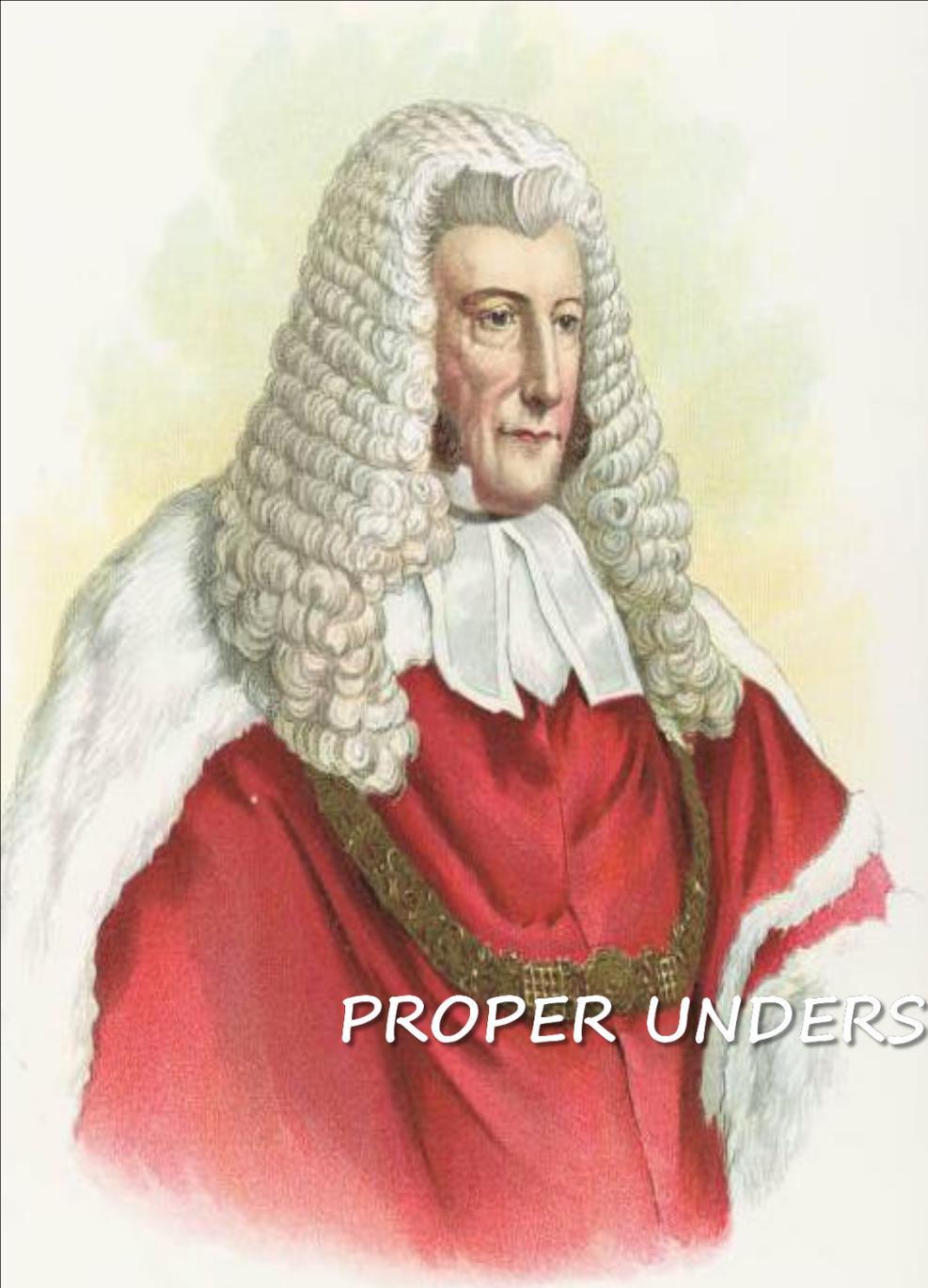
*WHEN GOD LOOKS AT THE WORLD HE
SEES WHAT THEY NEED*

Jonah 4:2-3 (ESV) That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.



JONAH UNDER THE
TREE

Jonah 4:10–11 (ESV) And the LORD said,
“You pity the plant, for which you
did not labor, nor did you make it
grow, which came into being in a
night and perished in a night. 11 And
should not I pity Nineveh, that great
city, in which there are more than
120,000 persons who do not know their
right hand from their left, and also
much cattle?



PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF GRACE

THE NATURE OF GRACE

Grace always seems unfair

Grace is only unfair when
evaluated along the lines of
human effort

Grace only makes sense when
seen from the perspective of
our need and God's
generosity

Only Grace can induce a
genuine spiritual response





SIMONE WEIL

GRAVITY AND GRACE

With an introduction
by Gustave Thibon





GRACE IS MISUNDERSTOOD

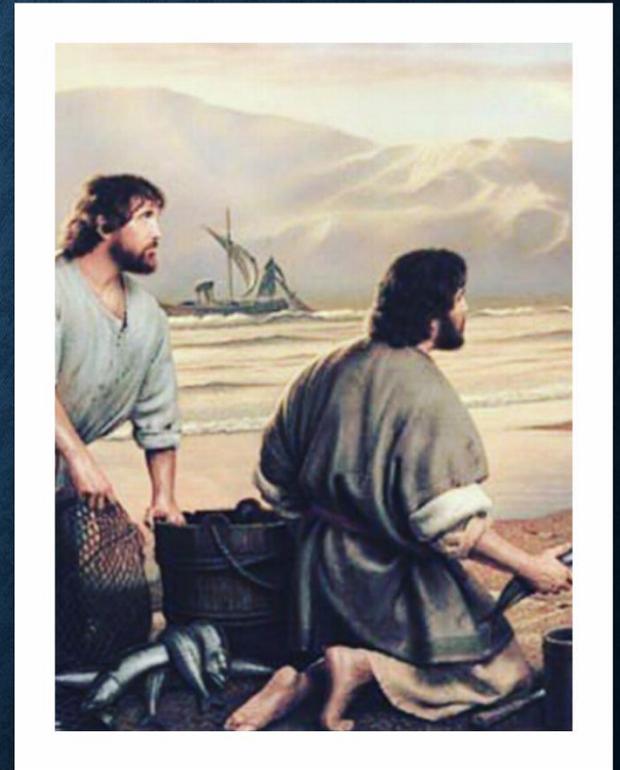
MATT 20:20-28

IT WAS NOT ENOUGH

Matthew 19: 28: Jesus said to them,
“Truly, I say to you, in the new
world, when the Son of Man will sit
on his glorious throne, you who have
followed me will also sit on twelve
thrones, judging the twelve tribes of
Israel.

GRACE IS MISUNDERSTOOD

Mark 10:35 (ESV) And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you





MILAN MALPENSA

GRACE IS RISKY



GRACE IS UNMERITED BUT NOT FREE



Matt 20: 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

PRICE ALREADY PAID

Grace. = Mercy +

Justice

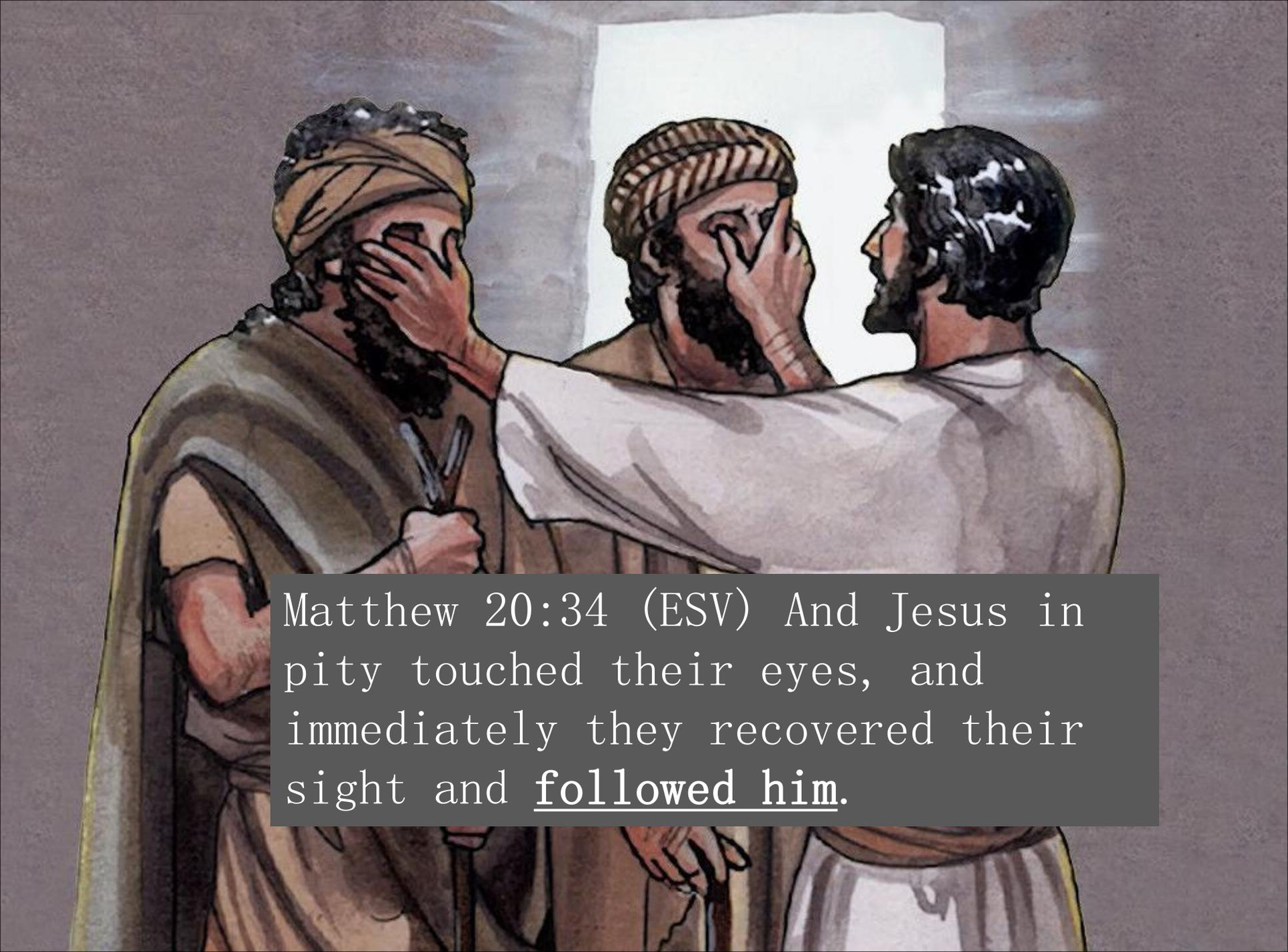
GRACE DEFIES COMPARISONS



1 Peter 4:10–11 (ESV) As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever.



Matthew 20:30–31 (ESV) they cried out,
“Lord, have mercy on us, Son of
David!” 31 The crowd rebuked them,
telling them to be silent, but they
cried out all the more, “Lord, have
mercy on us, Son of David!”



Matthew 20:34 (ESV) And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.