

What I Think About God – Week 3 – 6-2-24 – Pastor Rob

1. How would you describe God to someone?
2. How would you describe heaven?

Matthew 20:1-7 - *“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. ³“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ ⁵So they went. “He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ ⁷““Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’”*

3. Pastor Rob mentioned that in this story God is represented by the landowner. What do these verses tell us about God?
4. God is sovereign over all, just as the landowner is the authority over his land. What are your thoughts about God being the supreme authority?
5. The landowner agreed to pay the first workers a day’s wage for a day’s work. What does this tell us about God?
6. The workers hired later in the day agreed to work for whatever the landowner thought was right. What does this reveal about God?

Matthew 20:8-16 - *“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ ⁹“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹When 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?’ ¹⁴Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”*

7. What are your thoughts about this story?
8. Do you think that the landowner was fair with the workers?
9. How would you define ‘fair’?
10. Do you think that God is fair with us?
11. How is it fair that in heaven some people will have served him their whole lives, and others will have received him on their death beds?
12. What does verse 15 tell us about God?
13. What do you think Jesus is saying in verse 16 that “the last will be first, and the first will be last”?
14. What can we learn about the kingdom of heaven from this story?
15. How should this story challenge us to live?