

**Sour Grapes:**  
**September 20, 2026**

Let's play a game... shall we?  
I will start a sentence...  
And you finish the sentence...  
Based on your life experience.  
Ready? Ok.

- I'll give you something...
- I brought you into this world and...
- Just wait until...
- As long as you live under my roof...
- Children should be seen...

Good.  
How did you do?  
Did you get all the right answers?

Well... maybe...  
But what if... there was another way...  
To look at those particular sentences.

Watch this **[Video - Sentences]**.

I would propose to you... **[1 Expectations]**  
That this is all about...  
EXPECTATIONS.

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You know what the answers are...  
The little girl obviously did not know.  
But she was not tainted by expectations...  
She's not thinking something bad.  
Like all these sayings...  
Are about bad things.

And the truth is...  
The little girl's answers... are better.  
I'm a little envious of her outlook on life.

From her answers...  
You can tell...

She is kind and good hearted.  
And best of all... she knows...  
She is loved and wanted.

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You know... this story that Jesus tells...  
About the workers in the vineyard...  
It's all about expectations.  
It's about how we think... things should be...  
It's about what we think... we deserve...  
And how we think... we have been treated.

Now... don't get me wrong. **[2 Workers]**

Jesus says... in Luke 10:7...

That the workers deserve to be paid.

But that's not the problem in this lesson... is it?

Everybody is getting paid.

The people who start...

Early in the morning...

At 9 am... noon... 3 pm...

And 5 pm...

Everybody got paid.

But they got paid... exactly the same.

That's the problem...

Here's how it happened.

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See... the people who started working...

Right away... first thing in the morning...

Made an agreement... with the landowner...

That they would get one denarius...

For the day's work.

Which was a fair wage.

But at the end of the day...

It didn't go how they expected...

And they became angry.

When everybody else...

Who started later... than they did...

Were paid a denarius too.

They thought they deserved more.

But you know...

They weren't short-changed... they weren't cheated...

They got exactly what they were promised.

It's just that... the landowner...

Was more generous... than they expected. Let me say it again.

Wait. Why is that a problem? Isn't that a good thing?

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You know what we used to call this... sour grapes. **[3 Sour Grapes]**

When something good happens...

To someone else...

And it makes you mad.

When a rule gets bent...

To help someone out.

And you feel cheated.

When a strict line is ignored...

And grace is given instead.

When someone gets...  
More than they deserve.

Our first thought isn't...  
Well... isn't that great... good for them.

Our first thought is...  
You know what...  
They don't really deserve that...  
That's not the way...  
This is supposed to work.

The owner broke the rules.  
This is a great injustice...  
To me... somehow...

And now that I mention me...  
What about me?

I've been here the whole time...  
I've been working like a dog...  
It's not fair.

That is sour grapes.

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I think Jesus is trying to teach us two things...  
In this parable...

First. He is teaching us... **[4 Payday]**  
That anytime a person comes to God...  
It's a good time.

It can be early in your life...  
It can be in the middle of your life...  
And yes... it can be at the very end...

Now... think about it... for just a minute...  
What if you were that person...  
Who was waiting for God.

What if you were lost... and hurting...  
What if you couldn't find your way home.

What if you thought...  
In your own heart... that...  
You were worthless... unloved and unwanted.

And at the last minute...  
The landowner... God...  
Came to you... and said...  
Come on now... I want you... to work for me.  
I know it's late... **but it's not too late.**  
Come work for me.

And then... at the end of the day...  
When the score is settled...  
You end up... getting a full day's pay.  
Even though you didn't work a full day...  
Even though you don't deserve it.

The owner... gives you...  
More than you expected...  
You know what we call that... grace.

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Remember from Luke 7:47... **[5 Woman]**

A woman ran up to Jesus...  
And broke a really expensive jar of ointment...  
On his feet... and washed his feet...  
With her own tears...  
And dried them... with her hair.

Remember what Jesus said...  
Her sins, which were many, have been forgiven;  
Therefore she has shown great love.  
But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.

Doesn't that give you hope???

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These late bloomers... late workers...  
Didn't think they had a chance.  
To find work. To be paid. To make money. To live.  
But in the end... they were blessed.

How surprised and thankful would you be?  
How grateful to not be forgotten?  
How happy would you be...

The difference is...  
The late day workers... KNOW...  
How lucky they are.

The early morning workers... forgot...  
That the blessing... of work... and pay...  
Is a gift... given to them... by God.

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Which leads to the other primary teaching...  
Of this parable.

It's about the nature of God.  
Which gets revealed...  
When the owner...  
Is confronted about how...  
Unfairly the people are getting paid.

The early risers... are so angry...

That it confuses the landowner.

The landowner... says...  
I did you no wrong!  
I gave you exactly what I promised.  
You just don't like it... that I gave the last ones...  
The same as you...

Well... not your business.  
Mind your own... and go on your way.

And one more thing... before you go...  
Am I not allowed to do what I choose...  
With what belongs to me?

Or are you envious...  
Because I am generous.

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So one day... a long time ago... I had a vision. **[6 Earth]**  
It was kind of like a dream...  
That happened when I was awake.

A movie screen fell over my eyes...  
And I saw myself...  
Standing on the earth.

And I raised my hands... into the sky...  
And said... God I dedicate my life to you.

And God said... you can't dedicate...  
What already belongs to me.

And God reached into me...  
And pulled out my spirit...  
Up toward the heavens...  
And I looked back...

And there were many spirits...  
Being pulled up... into God.

That's a true story. And I think the point was clear. **[7 Belongs]**

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Everything belongs to God. Right?  
Everything we have... belongs to God.  
We belong to God.  
Our whole existence...  
Is given to us as a gift.

This life... and everything in it...  
It's not yours...  
It's not mine.  
It's God's.

So the question is... can God do...  
Whatever God chooses to do...  
With what belongs to God.  
The answer is YES.  
Of course... God can...

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But with all things... **[8 Generous]**  
God is so much more generous.  
Than what we deserve.

So instead of comparing ourselves... to other people...  
Instead of being jealous...  
Instead of saying... life is not fair...

We ought to be looking...  
At our own lives...  
At what we have been given...

We should be falling on our knees...  
Every single day... and saying...  
Thank you God.

Thank you that I woke up today.  
Thank you for this amazing life.  
Thank you for the people who love me.  
And care for me.

Thank you God for this community of faith.  
Thank you for life. and health. and daily bread.

Thank you God.  
For all that you have given me.  
I am always blessed... every day.  
Even the hard ones.

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This whole parable... is just like... **[9 Prodigal]**  
The story of the Prodigal Son... from Luke 15...  
Remember... how the younger boy...  
Wandered off into the world.

And wasted everything his inheritance...  
On dissolute living.

But when the son came to his senses...  
He went home... and on the way...  
His father ran... to meet him.

And he grabbed his son...  
And hugged him...  
And kissed him...  
Gave him his the ring off his finger...  
And a nice clean robe...  
And ordered a feast in his honor.

Which was awesome... right?

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But not everyone thought it was awesome.  
The older brother...  
Who stayed home... and worked hard...  
Who was loyal... to his father...

Who did not waste... anything.

But when this yahoo brother... shows up...  
And the father loves him...  
And accepts him...  
And goes to great lengths...  
To bring him back...  
Into his home.

He says... wait... wait one minute.  
This is not how it should be.  
He shouldn't be able to come back...  
And be treated like this.

I've been here the whole time.  
I've been faithful.  
I've been good.  
And you haven't given me a darn thing...

Now all the sudden...  
THIS SON OF YOURS...  
Comes rolling back into town...  
And you kill the fatted calf... for him.

Sour grapes again. But this time...  
The older son's harsh words...  
Break the father's heart.

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The father says to the older boy...  
Son. I don't understand.  
You have been with me the whole time.  
Everything I have... belongs to you.

But we had to celebrate.  
We had to... because...  
This BROTHER OF YOURS...  
Was dead... but now he is alive.  
He was lost... but now he is found.

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Listen. The point is...  
You and I...  
We have a choice.  
Of how we live our lives.

We can live... full of sour grapes.  
Jealous and bitter...

Being critical and catty...  
Looking for trouble...  
All the time.

But... why would we?  
Where's the joy in that?  
Why would we choose to be angry?  
It makes no sense.

We are loved.  
We are home.  
We are surrounded by God's grace.  
We are so blessed. **[10 Blessed]**

But the blessing of God...  
Isn't just for us.

We are blessed to be a blessing to other people.  
To share the goodness of God...  
That we have been given.

To celebrate... in the success...  
And joy... and happiness of others.  
Not to stew... and fret... and hate.

We have something so incredible.  
We have been invited to work...  
For the good of the Kingdom of God.

And when we see others...  
Who know that same joy...  
We should rejoice.  
Every time.

Because all the workers...  
Early... late... and every one in between...  
Get to know... and feel...  
The power of God's redeeming love.

And isn't that the point?

Thanks be to God.  
Amen!