



Favor Ain't Fair

Amazed by God's Grace

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

The Gathering

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, Pastor

Ray of Hope Christian Church | Decatur, GA




Matthew 20:1-16 (8-16)

The background features a dark blue field with abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue and white. These shapes include diagonal lines, solid blocks, and patterns of fine horizontal lines, creating a layered, architectural effect on the left side of the frame.

Favor Ain't Fair

The image features a dark blue background with decorative geometric patterns in the top-left corner. These patterns consist of overlapping shapes in various shades of blue, including solid colors and fine horizontal lines. The text is centered horizontally and reads:

“Workers in the Vineyard.”

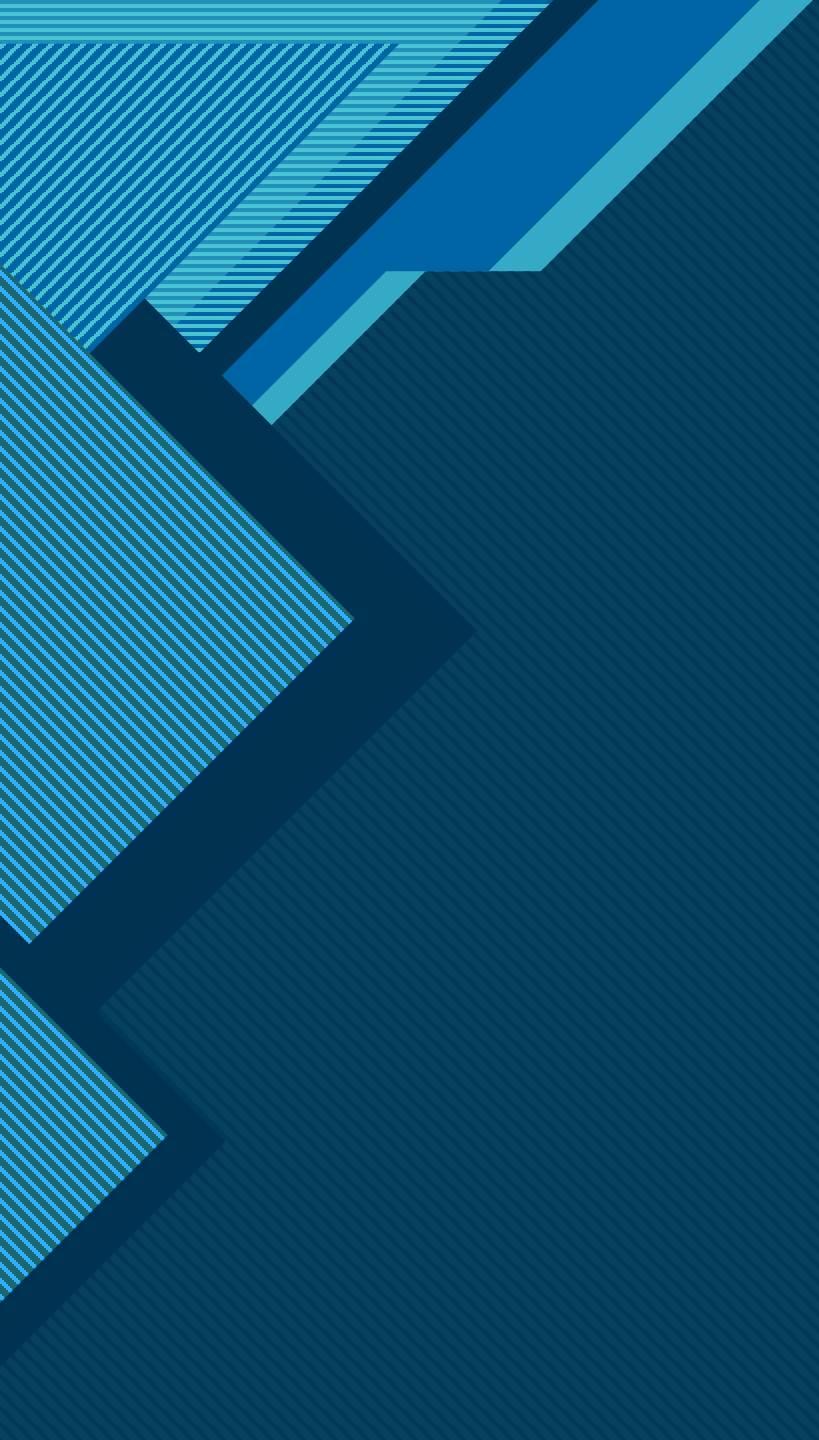


For the Kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard.



**So, the last will
be first, and the
first will be last.**

Matthew 20:16



His wages each day
before sunset; because
he is poor and
is counting on it.

Deuteronomy 24:15

The background features a dark blue field with abstract geometric shapes in the top-left corner. These shapes include overlapping triangles and rectangles, some filled with fine white horizontal lines and others with solid blue. The overall aesthetic is modern and minimalist.

Not Fair!



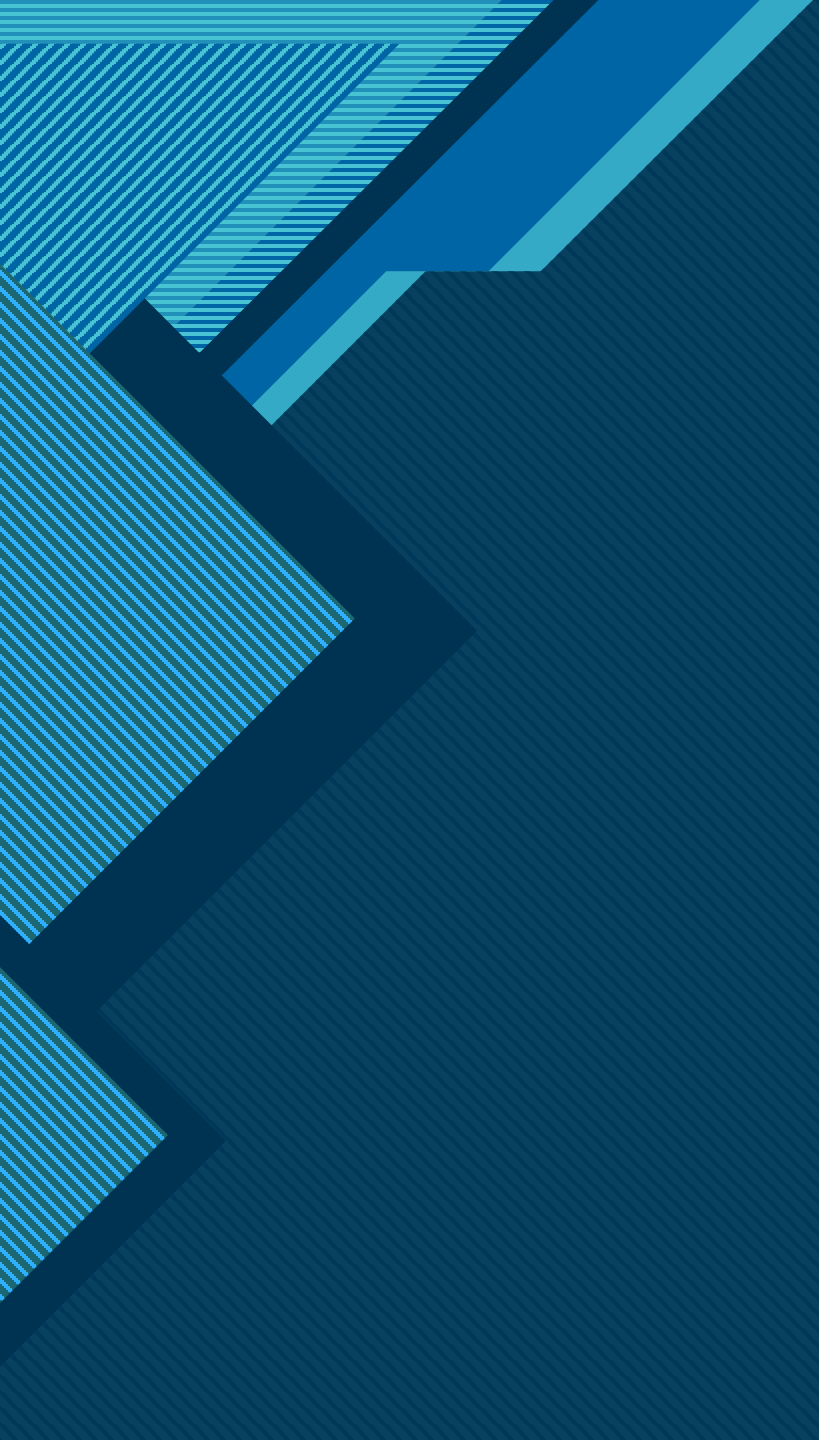
Why wasn't it fair?

**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.'**

Matthew 20:12

“But the landowner answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius. Take your money and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

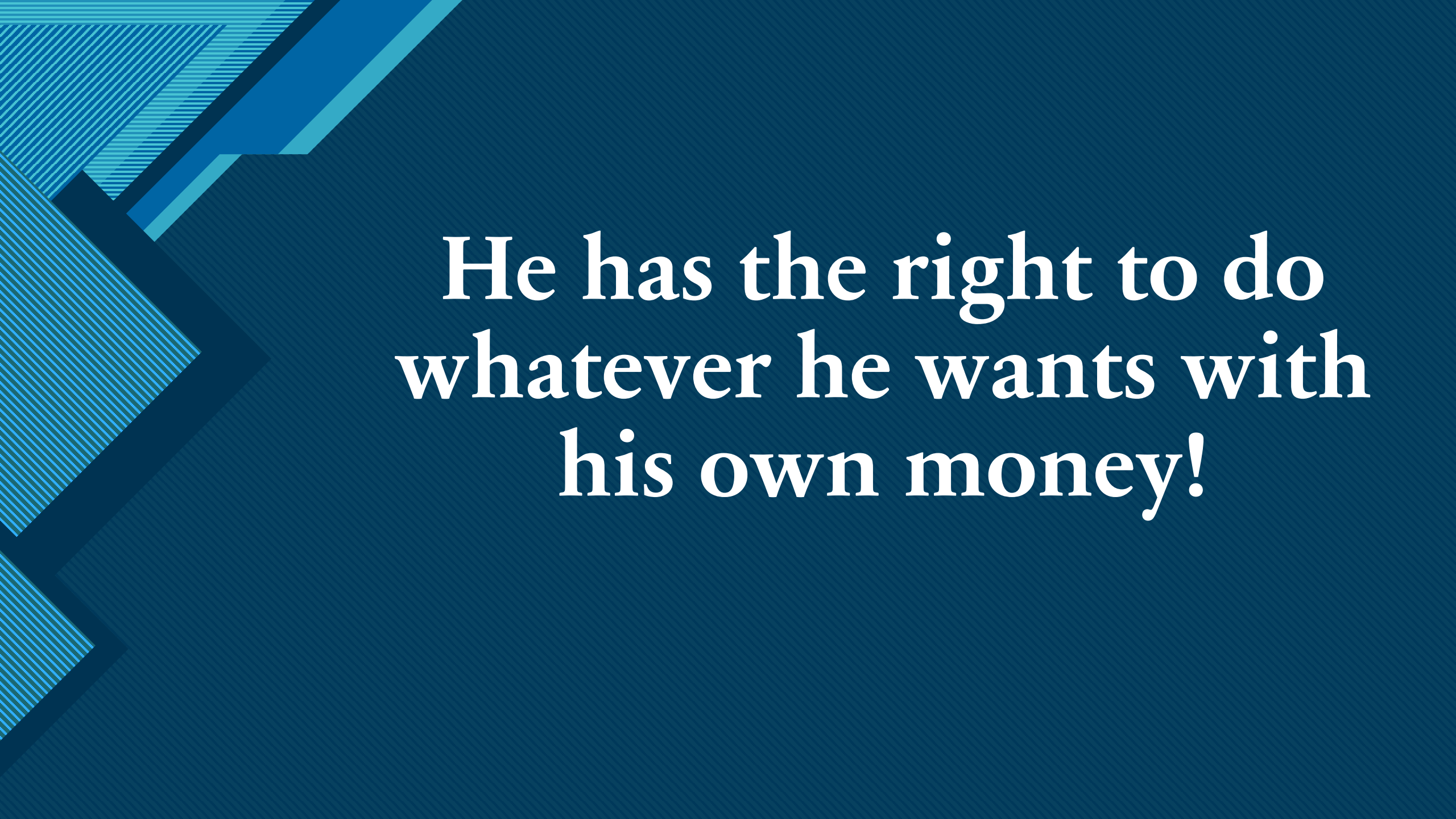
Matthew 20:13-15



This parable is first
and foremost about
God and who he is.



God is sovereign.




He has the right to do
whatever he wants with
his own money!



God is gracious
and generous.


For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “yes” in Christ, and so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

II Corinthians 1:20



In Christ is the yes, the grand affirmation to all God's promises. He is the how of salvation raised up for us by God.

Philip Hughes



Beyond the actual fulfillment of all the promises made about him, Christ is also the meritorious basis upon which all of God's other promises depend.


Philip Yancy

He who did not spare his own son but gave him up for us all – how will he not along with him graciously give us all things.

Romans 8:32

Discussion

Describe the last time, you had a need and God met it without your even asking him? What did he do for you? Did you feel worthy of it? How did you feel when he did it?



God has a history of being
gracious and generous to folks
who didn't deserve it beginning
with Adam and Eve.



Genesis 2:9




**It is God's nature to be
gracious and generous!**




God delights in
doing good.

Jeremiah 32:38-41




I will never stop doing good to them. I will rejoice in doing good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.



Grace is no longer grace
if God is compelled to
withdraw it in the presence
of human demerit.

Samuel Storm



God is sovereign.
God is gracious and
generous; God has the
right to dispense
blessings as he chooses.

**But who are you, O man, O woman
to talk back to God. “Shall what is
formed say to him who formed it,
‘why did you make me liked this’ ”
Does not the potter have the right to
make out of the same lump of clay
some pottery for noble purposes
and some for common use?**

Romans 9:20-21

Discussion

**Have you ever felt slighted
by God in some area
of your life?**



**God also blesses folks that
we don't think are worthy.**



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