**“Living like a Spoiled Little Rich Kid”**

**Texts: Philippians 4:10-20 & Matthew 20:1-16**

Examples of one

* Lazy, unconcerned about others, better than others, big ego, poor achiever, mean

Parable of the equally paid workers isn’t about SLRKids but the attitudes of the early workers the same.

Parable more than fairness to workers – v1 says Kingdom of heaven like this story

Story preceded by Rich Young Man wanting to inherit eternal life in Matthew 19

Setting the stage & introducing lead characters – lots of interpretations of the story

* Landowner – God
* Hired workers – believers
* Vineyard – world
* Denarius – fair daily wage
* Workers not hired – the unsaved

How the earliest workers are spoiled ***(Spoiled of the World vs Spoiled in Christ)***

* 3rd,6th,9th hour laborers already arrogant experts from the length & heat of the day
* Claiming rights of seniority
* Grumbling wanting more as they no longer wanted to keep the bargain with landowner
* Landowner reveals motives as last workers paid first in front of the early one
* What difference does pay plan make to earliest ones - they still get their eternal reward
* Earlier workers desire later ones to lose eternal salvation
* Like Hallmark channel movie, people choice to be workers at different times as people change their minds (today we sadly call that “flip-flopping” and inconsistent
* Landowner reveals jealousy, judgmental spirit, and self-serving attitudes
* First workers unconcerned about the mission as the landowner sought more help in the vineyard to get the job done before nightfall
* Never considered whether late laborers worked harder in the field as they had less time to get the job done

Turning to Philippians – Exploring three (not all) examples of the unsearchable, glorious riches in Christ

Greatness of Paul’s story

* More than the gift
* More than being thankful
* More than about Paul’s troubles
* More than about their sacrifices (a fragrant offering)

Again ***– Spoiled in the World vs. Spoiled in Christ***

Our challenge is to communicate message about the riches of Christ

Not to brag about our salvation, knowledge, good works or skills like the vineyard laborers

1. Rejoice in concern for others (v10) **– EMPATHY**
2. Contentment in all circumstances (vs. 11-12) – **TRANQUILITY**
3. Strength to do everything through him (v13) **– DURABILITY**

Empathy – a chance to show concern

* Last Friday on PA turnpike a human chain of good Samaritan strangers saved a truck driver whose rig went off the road during the blizzard
* Demonstrate empathy to others to show others our riches

Tranquility – Contentment in All Circumstances

* More than a disconnected guru espousing lofty goals as there are enough self-help messages and messengers in the world
* Peace during the blizzard anecdotes

Durability – Strength to do everything through Him

* Relentless snow plow drivers enduring one way drivers, pedestrians, and poor driving during the storm
* Believers who sent Paul aid again and again as received from Ephaphroditus

Truths about SLRKids living in Christ

* Always subtle
* Always dependable
* Never self-seeking

The first will be last and the last will be first