

WEEK 3 | Vineyard Workers

Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.
Romans 12:15

#1: The problem: unfair comparisons.

Then Peter said to Him, "We've given up everything to follow You. What will we get?"
Matthew 19:27

"Everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for My sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life. But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then."
Jesus in Matthew 19:29 - 30

A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body; jealousy is like cancer in the bones.
Proverbs 14:30

Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other.
Titus 3:3

Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.
Galatians 5:26

If you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.
James 3:14 - 16

#2: The parable: unequal pay.

"For the Kingdom of Heaven is like the landowner who went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work. At nine o'clock in the morning he was passing through the marketplace and saw some people standing around doing nothing. So he hired them, telling them he would pay them whatever was right at the end of the day. So they went to work in the vineyard. At noon and again at three o'clock he did the same thing. At five o'clock that

afternoon he was in town again and saw some more people standing around. He asked them, 'Why haven't you been working today?' They replied, 'Because no one hired us.' The landowner told them, 'Then go out and join the others in my vineyard.'" That evening he told the foreman to call the workers in and pay them, beginning with the last workers first. When those hired at five o'clock were paid, each received a full day's wage. When those hired first came to get their pay, they assumed they would receive more. But they, too, were paid a day's wage. When they received their pay, they protested to the owner, 'Those people worked only one hour, and yet you've paid them just as much as you paid us who worked all day in the scorching heat.'

Jesus in Matthew 20:1 – 11

"He answered one of them, 'Friend, I haven't been unfair! Didn't you agree to work all day for the usual wage? Take your money and go. I wanted to pay this last worker the same as you. Is it against the law for me to do what I want with my money? Should you be jealous because I am kind to others?' "So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last."

Jesus in Matthew 20:13 – 15

#3: The prescription: unselfish celebration.

- **Stop comparing.**

Jesus replied, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow Me."

John 21:22

- **Pray for God to bless people you envy.**
- **Encourage the blessed.**

Encourage each other and build each other up. *1 Thessalonians 5:11*

- **Move closer in the relationship.**
- **Give thanks instead of complaining.**

Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. *Philippians 2:14 – 15*

Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. *1 Thessalonians 5:18*

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