Parables Lesson 31 Handout

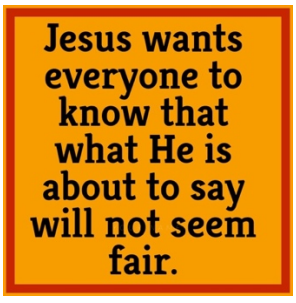
Matthew 20:1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

3 "About the third hour (around 9 am) he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' 5 So they went.

"He went out again about the sixth hour (noon) and the ninth hour (3pm) and did the same thing. 6 About the eleventh hour (5pm) 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.'

8 "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 the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. 10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more.**

11 **When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 12 'These men 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.'**

In the past ten years living in Cambodia, I have come face to face with a whole different kind of injustice. This isn't about whose turn it is to sit in the front seat. These are situations that are "big time" unfair. Take the legal system, for example.

Whoever has the most money and the best connections usually wins the case. Land grabbing is rampant.

It is common knowledge that the rich and powerful can get away with murder (figuratively and sometimes literally).

There is injustice in the school system too.

Rich kids can skip classes regularly and still pass, while good students fail simply because they did not give the teacher some money on the side.

There is also injustice in the hospitals. I have heard firsthand accounts of doctors and nurses ignoring certain

patients (causing them to die) because their relatives didn't place some money into their hands upon admittance.

There is even injustice in the streets. A poor, single mother on our street got evicted from her very small shack because local officials said she was taking too much space on the street.

As soon as her shack was razed, another person opened an auto repair shop in the exact same spot and began using ten times as much space as that woman ever did.

She was left alone. Stories like this never end.

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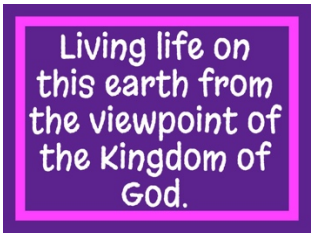
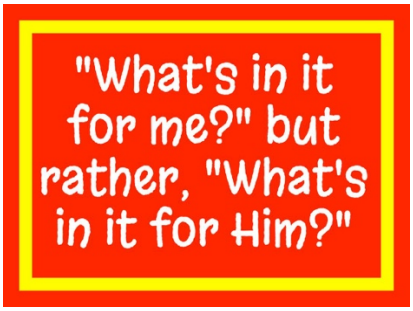
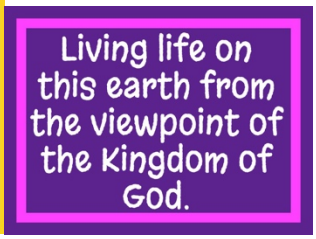
13 "But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?

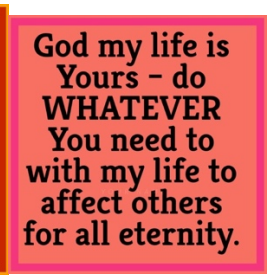


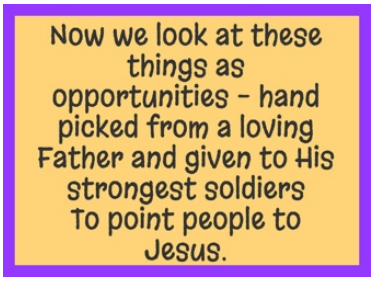
14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

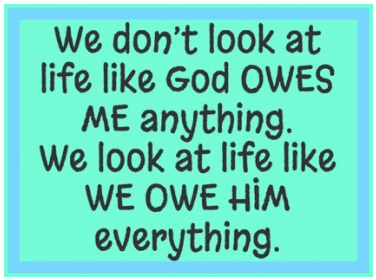


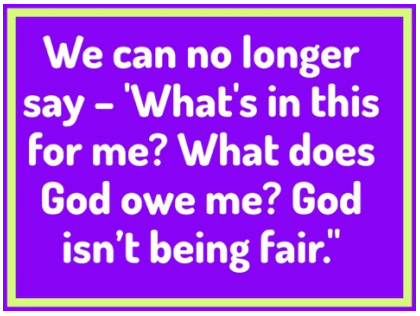
Lamentations 3:22 Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

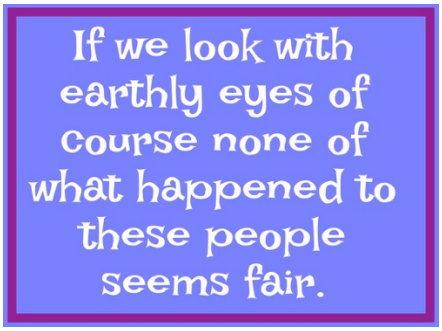






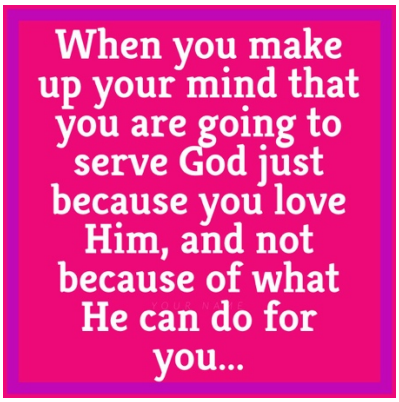


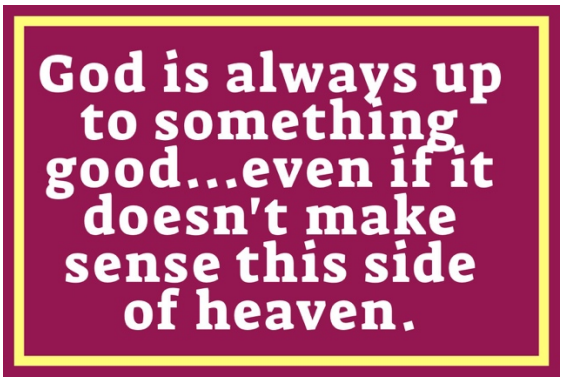




Psalm 66:10–12
10 For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.
11 You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs;
12 you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water;

yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.


When you make up your mind that you are going to serve God just because you love Him, and not because of what He can do for you...


God is always up to something good...even if it doesn't make sense this side of heaven.