

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

D.A. Carson, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew*, 2010.

Daniel M. Doriani, *Reformed Expository Commentary: Matthew*, 2008.

Tim Keller, *Logos Sermon Archive*.

John Legg, *The King and His Kingdom*, 2004.

Grant R. Osborne, *Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament: Matthew*, 2010.

*“...there's a long tradition of using vivid metaphors to describe various sins. Images of envy are especially grotesque. Envy is a green-ey'd monster, a ravenous wolf, a beast with many heads. Envy is a gnawing worm, the rust of the heart, the malignant shriek of the shriveled soul. Dante depicts Envy as chewing on a venomous toad, drooling poison. Envy lies in wait and springs like a serpent when its prey is within range. Envy cries over other's wealth. Envy cheers when another stumbles. Envy weeps at those who rejoice and rejoices over those who weep.”*



“Do you begrudge my generosity? ~Matthew 20:15

~Joe Rigney, *Killjoys*

- 1) Read Matthew 20:1-16. Is there anything from the sermon or passage that you found confusing, surprising or encouraging?
- 2) Why are the servants mad at the Master? How would you feel if you worked all day and you saw a bunch of late-coming miscreants receive the same paycheck for an hours worth of work? What does the Master accuse the cranky servants of doing in vs. 15? What makes you envious of others? (which is another way of begrudging God's goodness and generosity to others) How can God's grace be used as an instrument of judgment in this parable?
- 3) Grace is intended to welcome newcomers with the same welcome we received in Christ. How would that affect the way we welcome visitors and new believers at Hope Church? What do you think it is like coming late into a church community that has lived life together for years? What are ways we can relationally make room for the 'last'?
- 4) How often do you make a list of all your spiritual and physical assets (all the good gifts) given to you by God in Jesus Christ? What gifts from Jesus are you most surprised by?
- 5) Pray for Hope Church to be a grace-loving community that seeks to be jealous of the joy new believers have in the gospel. May God teach us to live as if the first shall be last and the last shall be first.

*“She saw the streak as a vast swinging bridge extending upward from the earth through a field of living fire. Upon it a vast horde of souls were tumbling toward heaven. There were whole companies of white trash, clean for the first time in their lives...and battalions of freaks and lunatics shouting and clapping and leaping like frogs. And bringing up the end of the procession was a tribe of people whom she recognized at once as those who, like herself and Claude, had always had a little of everything and the God-given wit to use it right. She leaned forward to observe them closer. They were marching behind the others with great dignity, accountable as they had always been for good order and common sense and respectable behavior. They, alone were on key. **Yet she could see by their shocked and altered faces even their virtues were being burned away.**”*

*She lowered her hands and gripped the rail of the hog pen, her eyes small but fixed unblinkingly on what lay ahead. In a moment the vision faded but she remained where she was, immobile. At length she got down and turned off the faucet and made her slow way on the darkening path to the house. In the woods around her the invisible cricket choruses had struck up, but what she heard were the voices of the souls climbing upward into the starry field and shouting hallelujah.”*

~Flannery O’Connor’s character, Mrs. Turpin, seeing a vision of grace (the last first and the first last)

“Revelation”