***Transforming Grace* by Jerry Bridges**

**Chapter 4 – “The Generous Landowner”**

Study Questions

1. Read Matthew 20:1-16, and answer the following questions.
	1. The laborers who worked a full day received a *denarius*, which is a full day’s wage. What does their reaction reveal about our common views of God’s justice and fairness (20:11-12)?

R. H. Stein: “It is frightening to realize that our identification with the first workers, and hence with the opponents of Jesus, reveals how loveless and unmerciful we basically are. We may be more ‘under law’ in our thinking and less ‘under grace’ than we realize. God is good and compassionate far beyond his children’s understanding!”[[1]](#footnote-1)

* 1. What is Jesus teaching about God (landowner) when he hires workers for just a few hours (or even one hour), yet pays them a full day’s wage?
	2. What do we learn about God from vv. 14-15.
	3. What do we learn about the kingdom of God from v. 16. (Note: Jesus is not distinguishing between believers and unbelievers. All the laborers receive their wages. Hence, they are all believers.)
1. Jeremiah 32:37-44, and answer the following questions. (Note: Jeremiah 32 was originally written to Israel. The promise here is for that nation in the future Millennial Kingdom.)
	1. In vv. 37-41, what expressions of “good” (v. 41) will God give to Israel?
	2. Why are these expressions of God’s goodness so *good*? Think about who these promises made to (read Jer 32:30)?
	3. What does it say about God that He will rejoice over Israel “to do them good” (v. 32). And how does this reality about God help us?
2. Read Joel 2:21-27. (Note: This is a prophecy about Israel’s restoration in the future Millennial Kingdom.)
	1. What makes God’s promise in v. 25 so extravagantly generous?
	2. In v. 27, what three things will Israel learn from God’s generosity toward it (one of them is repeated from v. 26)?
3. How does Peter’s life reveal the truth of Romans 5:20 – that where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more (pp. 50-52)? How does God deal with a believer when he or she sins?

Application Questions

1. Which of the following two reasons that we don’t experience more of God’s “endless supply” of grace affect you the most? Do you view God as a demanding, stingy boss (pp. 54-55? Or do you view salvation as being started by grace but finished by your hard efforts? (56-57)?
2. What happens inside of you and in your life overall when you view…
	1. God as demanding and stingy?
	2. Or salvation as something you have to finish by your labors?
3. Spend time drinking in the endless supply of God’s grace (John 1:18). Where do you see His grace in your life right now? Where do you fail to see it (perhaps on a regular basis)? Share your answers with one another.
1. Leon Morris, *The Gospel according to Matthew*, (Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1992). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)