



## **WOW: Word Of the Week**

### **Expectations (Matthew 20)**

**January 20, 2021**

One suggested title for Matthew 20 is this: What will WE get? Interesting. Let's survey the chapter. First, the connection with Matthew 19 should be noted. The subject is unchanged. Jesus is responding to Peter's question in the previous chapter. Note the parallel between 19:30 and 20:16.

Frankly, our expectations are upside-down. We think God must give greater reward for greater service. We tend to measure sacrifice, commitment, length of service. We have grown up in a culture that values being fair, treating everyone equally.

Jesus calls us to kingdom expectations. Look at the chapter more closely. What common themes do you see? How do you connect complaining workers, first and last, and seats of importance? All represent misunderstandings. A rich young man, Peter's question, the parable of the workers, Jesus' prediction of his death, the request of James and John, Jesus' affirmations of a new expectation.

Jesus challenges us – what matters is service, giving, sacrifice. Kingdom values are different than the values that most of us know. Kingdom values – evaluate your service and your sacrifice. Selfishness, extravagance, personal pleasure, entertainment, leisure time.... Much of what we expect in this world, Jesus throws out and declares impossible for the true disciple.

Challenging indeed!