

Table Host Discussion Guide

Week 5: Reckless Grace, Righteous Fire

This week we see the full nature of Jesus revealed in the Gospels: reckless grace for the unlikeliest people who humble themselves and respond to Him, and righteous fire toward religious pride that hinders others from coming to God. Through the parables of the **Workers in the Vineyard** (Matthew 20:1–16), the **Two Sons** (Matthew 21:28–32), and the **Wedding Banquet** (Matthew 22:1–14), Jesus shows that entrance into the kingdom is not earned by image, pedigree, or time served, but received by grace through repentance and faith. At the same time, Jesus warns that those who use religion for status, greed, or control—and especially those who block the lowly from drawing near—will face severe judgment (Mark 12:38–40; Matthew 21:12–17; Matthew 21:33–44). Finally, we see that Jesus’ judgment is not cold or cruel. He **weeps over Jerusalem** (Luke 19:41–44), and He calls us to respond with the **humble prayer** of the tax collector: “God, have mercy on me, a sinner” (Luke 18:9–14).

Discussion Questions

1. What is Jesus teaching about grace in the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard? (Matthew 20:1–16)

• **Application:** Where do you most feel comparison or resentment toward others (their story, timing, blessings, or “reward”)? What would it look like to release that and thank Jesus for His generosity to *you* this week?

2. What does the Parable of the Two Sons reveal about true obedience and true repentance? (Matthew 21:28–32)

• **Application:** In what area are you most tempted to “say yes” to God with words while delaying obedience with your life? What is one clear step of obedience you can take in the next 48 hours?

3. What does the Parable of the Wedding Banquet teach about God’s invitation and our response? (Matthew 22:1–14)

• **Application:** Do you relate more to someone who feels “unworthy to be invited,” or someone who has assumed you’re automatically included? How should your posture change this week—toward humility, gratitude, repentance, or renewed trust?

4. Why does Jesus speak such severe judgment against certain religious leaders? (Mark 12:38–40; Matthew 21:12–17)

• **Application:** What are subtle ways religious pride can show up in us—needing to be right, wanting recognition, being harsh toward “messy” people, or using spiritual language to justify selfishness? Ask the Spirit to reveal one area where you may be hindering rather than helping.

5. What is the difference between the Pharisee’s prayer and the tax collector’s prayer, and why does it matter? (Luke 18:9–14)

• **Application:** Which posture are you most prone to: self-justifying comparison or honest humility? What would it look like to practice the tax collector’s prayer daily this week—and to let it soften how you treat other people?