

### The Older Brother

Now it really doesn't make sense. To the older brother this is just so much emotion. He measures the days by the amount of sweat he puts in. He thinks of the good of the family every hour. He wakes and sleeps being faithful. To him grace is not justice. To him forgiveness doesn't balance the scales. Where is the punishment? Where is the consequence? This may be one of the hardest scriptures of all times. How do we who feel we are good respond to the grace God gives those who we feel do not deserve it?

#### 1st Step

Luke 15: 1-2, 11-32

Matthew 20:1-16

Ephesians 2:8-9

#### I

\*Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace.

What difference does it make if I base my relationship with God on how well I keep a list of rules, rather than believing that God accepts me by faith through His grace?

#### We

In Matthew 20:1-16 the laborers are given the same wage, no matter how long they had worked.

How do you think that our concept of justice relates to God's grace? Is it unfair? Why or why not?

#### They

\*Grace is given not because we have done good works, but in order that we may be able to do them. *St. Augustine*

What action could you take to pass on God's grace to others?

#### Sermon Notes