**KOINONIA – UNDERSTANDING EQUALITY AND EQUITY**

 **IN THE BODY OF CHRIST**

**I. The Early Church was an equal society.**
**2 Corinthians 8:13–14
13**For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness

**14**your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.

**Colossians 4:1
4**Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

**Acts 10:34-35**

So, peter opened his mouth and said: “truly I understand that God shows no partiality

35 but in every nation anyone who fears him ad does what is right is acceptable to him.

**II. How Do We explain Inequality in the Case of Mathew 25:14-30**

**Mathew 25:14-30**

**14**“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mathew+25%3A14-30&version=ESV#fen-ESV-24019a)] and entrusted to them his property.

**15**To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

**16**He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more.

**17**So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more.

**18**But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

**19**Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

**20**And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’

**21**His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mathew+25%3A14-30&version=ESV" \l "fen-ESV-24026c" \o "See footnote c)] You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

**22**And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’

**23**His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

**24**He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed,

**25**so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’

**26**But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed?

**27**Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.

**28**So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.

**29**For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. **30**And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

1. **Inequality**
2. They did not have the same abilities
3. They did not have the same talents
4. **Equality**
5. They had the same master
6. They had the same status
7. They were judged by the same standards
8. They had the same commendation

**III. How Do We Explain Inequality in the Case of Mathew 20:1-15**

**Mathew 20:1-15**

**11**“For the kingdom even is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

**2**After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

**3**And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

**4**and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’

**5**So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same.

**6**And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’

**7**They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’

**8**And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’

**9**And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.

**10**Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius.

**11**And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house,

**12**saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’

**13**But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?

**14**Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you.

**15**Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’

1. **Inequality**

They did not start work at the same time

1. **Equality**

They served the same master

They had the same status

They received the same reward