KINGDOM of HEAVEN

A SERIES IN THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

Community Group Material

Matthew 18:30-19:16

Week of Sunday 25th May

It's not fair!

Leader Preparation

Spend some preparation time reading the passage, and looking through the notes on pages 15-16.

Make sure you spend some time as a group praying for our country and the elections.

Group Time:

How does your family approach politics? Do people discuss who they will vote for? Is it a closely guarded secret?

What do you think was the most important political issue for your parents in their home?

What do you think is the most important issue affecting your house this week?

Exploring the Passage

READ Matthew 18:30-19:16



Richard described this passage as being like lemon meringue pie!

- What aspect of the story did you find sweet and enjoyable?
- If you were there, what question would you want to ask?
- What would you like to experience as one of the characters in the story?
- What aspect left a sour taste in your mouth?
- Have you ever thought that God has treated you unfairly? Have you ever thought that he lets some people get away with too much?
- Are their people that God treats the same as you who you see as different?
- Do you think that some of us have more grace than others? Or do you think is is something that we either have or don't have?

Read through these passages and think about what they tell you about God's compassion.

1 Timothy 2:4

2 Peter 3:9

Ezekiel 18:23

God seems to care a lot about drawing people into his kingdom! Do we care as much about reaching those people and seeing them experience his grace?

Do you long for these kinds of people to be welcomed into God's kingdom?

- People you love who don't follow Jesus?
- People who have hurt or harmed you?
- People at your work or school?
- People far away who have never heard of Jesus?

Can you ask God to give you greater compassion for people, and a greater desire for them to experience grace from him as you have?

Prayer

Lord, we the people of South Africa thank and praise you for your inexhaustible love and the graces of healing and peace you continually offer to us as a nation.



As we prepare for the elections, send us your Holy Spirit to guide us as we choose leaders for our nation: leaders who aspire for the common good of our nation, leaders who fear the Lord in their hearts.

May the Youth in particular and all people, register and prepare to vote.
May all the officials and volunteers of the IEC be honest and work diligently to ensure all regulations are followed.
May South African Police Service be well prepared to maintain safety and security during campaigning, voting and counting of votes.
May all media houses and journalists communicate, report fairly, truthfully and broadcast no hate speech.
May all leaders and people in general respect the right of voters to vote confidentially and freely.
May we as a Nation accept the final results with gratitude, a spirit of peace and declare the voting process as having been free and fair.

Merciful God and Father may Your Will be done!

We ask this through Christ Our Lord-

Amen! (from the Catholic Bishops' Conference)