

# God's Grace in Life's Disorder

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**SCRIPTURE OVERVIEW:** The Decalogue in Exodus 20 need not be considered a litmus test of righteousness or religious purity but rather a declaration that lies near the heart of the covenant relationship between Yahweh and Israel. The Torah is the way the people say yes to God's saving initiatives. Psalm 19:1-6 links the gift of the Torah to other acts of divine creation. The balance of the psalm celebrates the strength and beauty of the Torah and moves the reader behind the Torah to its Giver, thereby proclaiming the gospel of the well-ordered life. In Philippians 3 Paul speaks of himself as leaning into the future in response to the manner in which Jesus Christ has invaded his own life. The parable in Matthew 21 presents a direct and bold affinity for living in accordance with the gospel, producing "fruits of the kingdom."

## QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Read Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20. If you are unable to live out the Commandments, which ones would you remove from the list?
- Read Psalm 19. If you monitored your speech for a day, how would you describe the tone and content? What one gift would you petition God for?
- Read Philippians 3:4b-14. How is your church and its people a sign for those who need hope and new life?
- Read Matthew 21:33-46. Where in your church, among the members and in the various meetings and activities, have you seen evidence that folks "have forgotten who owns the vineyard"?

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