

Short Talk

(SHT064a)

Is it fair?

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SHORT TALK: “IS IT FAIR?”

Aim of Short talk:	To challenge people with the truths that: 1) God has no “inner circle” of favourites but gives each person who turns to Him His gift of salvation, and 2) We cannot earn God’s gift; He gives it to us and then out of gratitude we serve Him.
Use of Short talk:	This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
Main themes:	Serving God, Salvation
Biblical references:	Matthew 20:1-16
Lectionary:	Year A 2023 – The 16 th Sunday after Trinity
Props:	<p>1) You will need 4 small bars of the same chocolate. On the outside of each bar, affix a label that says: “SALVATION.”</p> <p>2) Make 4 large circular discs and hang them on pieces of ribbon (so that they can go around people’s necks).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> On 1 of the discs write: “20 years of service” On 1 of the discs write: “10 years of service” On 1 of the discs write: “5 years of service” On 1 of the discs write: “1 year of service”
Preparation:	You may wish to brief people beforehand, especially as you won’t want people to get the wrong end of the stick before you deliver the whole talk!

Some of you here have been members of this church for a very long time.

- Have any of you served the Lord here for around 20 years? *(Invite 1 person to join you at the front – standing 2m apart)*
- Here you are; this is a medal to show that you have served the Lord for around 20 years. *(Hand the medal with the words “20 years of service” to the person and ask them to wear it)*

You must be very precious to God and on His inner circle, having served Him for that long.

- I wonder how God is going to reward you.

Have any of you served the Lord here for around 10 years? *(Invite 1 person to join you at the front – standing 2m apart from you and the other person)*

- Here you are, this is a medal to show that you have served the Lord for around 10 years. *(Hand the medal with the words “10 years of service” to the person and ask them to wear it)*

You too must be very precious to God and on His inner circle.

- I wonder how God is going to reward you.

Have any of you served the Lord here for around 5 years? *(Invite 1 person to join you at the front – standing 2m apart)*

- Here you are, this is a medal to show that you have served the Lord for around 5 years. *(Hand the medal with the words “5 years of service” to the person and ask them to wear it)*

Hmmm, you haven’t been around that long..... *(Point at people who are wearing the 10year and 20year of service medals)*

- I wonder how God is going to reward you.

Now have any of you served the Lord here for around 1 year? *(Invite 1 person to join you at the front – standing 2m apart)*

- Here you are, this is a medal to show that you have served the Lord for around 1 year. *(Hand the medal with the words “1 year of service” to the person and ask them to wear it)*
- I wonder how God is going to reward you.

Let’s see what rewards I have here from God for each one of you.

- For the person who has served God for around 1 year, God is giving you His sweet gift of SALVATION *(Hand over a chocolate bar to the person with the 1year medal)*

Now what do we have for the person who has served God for around 5 years?

- For the person who has served God for 5 years, God is giving you His.....sweet gift of SALVATION *(Hand over a chocolate bar to the person with the 5year medal)*
- Hang on a minute.....is it fair that God has given the same gift to this person who has served Him five times longer?
- Perhaps there is some mistake!

And what about the person who has served God for 10 years? What do they get?

- God is giving you His sweet gift of SALVATION too *(Hand over a chocolate bar to the person with the 10year medal)*
- This is ridiculous.....it doesn’t seem fair.

I am almost embarrassed to give the person who has served God for 20 years their gift.

- And yes folks, it is the same.....God is giving you His sweet gift of SALVATION too. *(Hand over a chocolate bar to the person with the 20year medal)*
- Is it fair?

You know, you and I can very often look at things the wrong way round.

- We can look at the many years that someone has served the Lord or been part of the church community and think that they must be much more precious to God than someone who has just walked in through the door for the first time,
- or someone who has not yet come to faith.

The **truth** is that Father God doesn’t have an inner circle of favourite people.

- Every single person here is equally precious to Him, however old or young they are;
- however long they have known Him for.

Every single person here receives the same gift of salvation when they turn to Father God. *(Point to the 4 people standing in a line)*

- Not only that, but Father God is constantly looking for new people to give His precious gift to.
- So, let’s remember that God has no inner circle of favourite people.

Another way that we can look at things the wrong way round is that we can think that we can earn God's amazing gift of salvation by serving Him.

- The truth is that we cannot earn God's gift.....(*Take back the 4 chocolate bars*)
- Would you all take off your medals. (*People all take off their medals*)

God gives us His salvation gift freely because He loves us and is generous to us. (*Give back the chocolate bars to the 4 people*)

- Once we have received God's gift, then we serve Him out of gratitude.....
- not so that we receive medals or praise from people,
- but because we love Him.

God's ways and our ways are often very different.

- Can I encourage you today to make sure that you look at things the right way round?