

Matthew 20:1-20 – Laborer's & Rewards.

I. (1-2) Laborers hired in the morning.

This parable/story is about an employer and his employees; job seekers went early at a trading center ready to be hired. Others came at different times at their own convenience.

II. (3-7) Through the day, the landowner continues to hire.

At 9:00 a.m, 12 noon and 5:00 in the evening he hired more to do the work.

The landowner had an unlimited supply work; he seems *surprised* that some people were **idle**. The other workers hired through the day were not promised a *specific* wage, only **whatever is right**.

III. (8-10) The landowner pays his workers.

These were day laborers, when it came time to pay the workers, the men hired last were paid first – and paid for a full day of work!

The men who were hired at the **eleventh hour** – who worked only about one hour – were obviously paid first and for a full day. The men who worked for the landowner all day thought they were going to earn more than those who worked for less hours, but they all earned equal, as promised.

IV. (11-15) The complaint of the early workers.

After being paid, the men hired first took up their complaint with the landowner. They were offended that the landowner gave the men who worked less **equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day**.

The landowner reminded them that he had been completely fair to them. He did them **no wrong**, and had broken no promise. He also strongly claimed his right to do what he wanted with what was his.

V. (16) The parable applied: the principle of God's reward.

- **You will be reward.**

Through this Parable Jesus assured Peter and the disciples that they will be rewarded – but God's reward system is different than men. This is the essence of God's grace, when He rewards and blesses man according to His will and pleasure, not necessarily according to what men deserve

Do you think before God we'll ask for more or be humbled with whatever He gives?

1 Corinthians 3:8-15 - *Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

2 John 1:8 - *Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.*

Revelation 22:12 - *"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.*

- **Why are some potential laborers idle?**

Matthew 9:37-38 - *Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."*

"Why is any one of us remaining idle towards God?...Can we dare to say, 'No man hath hired us?'"

- **The evil eye.**

1 Peter 2:1 - *Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,*

Romans 13:13 - *Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.*

Colossians 3:23-25 - *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.*

A boss tells an applicant, "I'll give you \$8 an hour, starting today, and in three months, I'll raise it to \$10 an hour. So when would you like to start?" She replies, "In three months."

Right, so you're looking for someone with excellent proficiency in accounts and finance, with an experience dealing with white and blue collar clients and the freedom to work ANYWHERE...would you like them to walk on water and turn water into wine as well?