

## **Week 5: A Kingdom Attitude**

April 28, 2021

Jesus had a way of turning the world at the time He walked this earth upside down. He would challenge long held assumptions, correct long held wrong thinking and expose long held bad attitudes. IN our parable today, Jesus shares a situation that shakes up not only the world of His disciples, but also stands in sharp contrast with the way most approach the world today.

### **A Unique Parable – just found in Matthew**

#### **General Information**

*Matthew's Gospel*

#### ***Placement of this parable***

- **General**
  
- **Immediately preceding this parable**
  
- **Following this parable**

### **Parable of the Laborers (Matthew 20:1-16)**

**Matthew 20:1-16** <sup>1</sup> "For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup> and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' <sup>5</sup> So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> 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?' <sup>7</sup> They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.'

<sup>8</sup> 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.' <sup>9</sup> And when those hired about the eleventh hour

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

<sup>11</sup> And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, <sup>12</sup> 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.' <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?' <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first last."

## **What's the setting where this is being delivered?**

*Place*

*Occasion*

*Audience*

## **What's the setting of the parable itself?**

## **Who are the main characters or objects?**

## **What happens in this story?**

## **Is there cultural information that may be helpful know about?**

## **What does this mean?**

Before we look at the meaning of this, let's look at what Jesus didn't mean or wasn't teaching through this.

**What this doesn't mean or teach?**

- An early form of \_\_\_\_\_
  
- How to run a successful \_\_\_\_\_
  
- It's better to \_\_\_\_\_ until the last minute
  
- Salvation is something we earn

In looking at the meaning, let's look at the major characters:

Vineyard owner = \_\_\_\_\_

Various workers = \_\_\_\_\_

Vineyard = \_\_\_\_\_

Payment = \_\_\_\_\_

***Principles:***

- God giving blessings is a \_\_\_\_\_
  
- God is exceedingly \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
  
- We shouldn't be \_\_\_\_\_ our blessings to others
  
- Rather than focusing on what we get, we should focus on the \_\_\_\_\_ of God
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ God calls we should answer

## Why is this important?

*To the Original Audience*

*For us*

## Reflection

1. How did looking at this parable in context help you understand it better? Explain
2. If you were one of Jesus' disciples hearing this, how might you respond or react? Explain
3. What's an area where it's challenging to not look at as in competition with other Christians? Explain
4. How might focusing more on the generosity of God rather than what He has given others and/or not given you change the way you serve, pray and worship? Explain