

The Parable Of The Workers In The Vineyard

Matthew 20:1-16

Key Verse: 20:15

“Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?”

1. Read verses 1-2. To what is the kingdom of heaven compared in this parable? Think about what vineyards meant to Israelites (Isa 5:1,2) What did the vineyard owner do early in the morning? What did he agree to pay the workers he hired?

2. What did he find when he went to the market place at 9 a.m.? (3) What arrangement did he make with the workers he hired then? When he went to the market place at 12 noon and again at 3 in the afternoon, what did he find? What seems to be the employment/unemployment situation in the country? What agreement did he make with the workers he hired at those times? (5)

3. Read verses 6-7. When he went again at 5 p.m. what did he find? What excuses did the unemployed people give for standing around doing nothing? Why do you think he hired these people?

4. Read verses 8. When evening came, what instructions did the owner of the vineyard give his foreman? Read verses 9-10. What did he pay those who were hired at 5 in the afternoon? What did those hired first expect? What did they receive? (10)

5. Read verses 11-12. Why did they grumble against the owner? What was their complaint? Was it a valid complaint? Was the owner unfair?

6. Read verses 13-16. How did the owner explain? Who is the Owner? Who did the early laborers represent? Who are the weak, and helpless, the unemployed? What does their grumbling show about the first ones? What is the owner's right? What does verse 16 mean? What was Jesus teaching about God? About his kingdom?