

The Parable of the Vineyard

TEXT: Mat. 20:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A WELL KNOWN PARABLE.
- B. GOOD FOR OUR STUDY.

I. THE KINGDOM IS LIKE A MAN WHO WENT OUT TO HIRE LABORERS.

- A. GOD DOESN'T ATTEMPT TO FORCE MEN TO WORK(**Rev. 22:17**)
- B. THE LORD WANTS ALL TO BE SAVED(**2 Pet. 3:9**).
- C. THE MAN OFFERED A DECENT WAGE. WHAT DOES GOD OFFER?
 - 1. Fellowship(**1 John 1:7**).
 - 2. Justification from sin(**Heb. 5:8-9**).
 - 3. A home in heaven(**Mat. 7:21**).
 - 4. Eternal life(**1 John 2:25**).
 - 5. Rest(**Mat. 11:28**).
- D. PAUL HELPS PUT THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE(**2 Cor. 4:16-18**).

II. HE WENT OUT TO HIRE LABORERS.

- A. GOD DOESN'T WANT THOSE WHO WON'T WORK(**James 1:22**).
- B. JESUS LEFT US AN EXAMPLE OF HARD WORK(**John 5:17; 9:4**).
- C. OUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN(**1 Cor. 15:58; Mat. 10:42**).
- D. LABORERS WORK(**Eph. 2:10**).

III. THE LORD'S LABORERS WORK IN HIS VINEYARD.

- A. WE GLORIFY GOD IN THE CHURCH(**Mat. 5:16; Eph. 3:21**).
- B. WE DO THE WORK HE ASSIGNS(**Mat. 7:21-23**).

IV. SOME WENT EARLY, SOME LATE, ALL GOT THE SAME PAY.

- A. CONTEXT HELPS TO UNDERSTAND(**Mat. 19:16-30**).
 - 1. Man can't save himself.
 - 2. We often hold the wrong thing in high esteem(**19:30;20:16**).
 - 3. God saves us because he loves us.
- B. AND THIS IS THE LESSON OF THE PARABLE - WE NOT PAID BY THE HOUR OR BY THE PIECEWORK AS THOUGH WE EARN SALVATION.
 - 1. Eternal life is a gift(**Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9**).
 - 2. The gift is for those who obey(**Mat. 7:21**).
 - 3. We are still undeserving(**Luke 17:10**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. **2 Cor. 6:1.**
- B. **Acts 22:16.**