

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD (MATTHEW 20:1-16) NOVEMBER 8, 2020

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. After **agreeing** with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and **whatever is right** I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. 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?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' (Matthew 20:1-7)

A TALE OF TWO HESEDS

"The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty." (Ex. 34:6)

HESED AND HANDOUTS

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.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it **they grumbled** at the master of the house, 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.' (Matthew 20:8-12)

SPEAK, FRIEND, AND ENTER (THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN)

'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last." (Matthew 20:13-16)

THE FINAL TWIST (AKA "THE M. NIGHT SHYAMALON")

"If I ever reach heaven, I expect to find three wonders there: **first** to meet some I had not thought to see there; second, to miss some I had expected to see there; and third, the greatest wonder of all, to find myself there." —John Newton

COMMUNION: WHERE (EARLY AND LATE) VINEYARD WORKERS REJOICE TOGETHER!

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." (Matthew 26:26-29)

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