



Parables of Jesus Salvation and Service Serving the King

Introduction: This is a profound parable about what

should be the disciple's motivation for service. We should serve out of gratitude.

A. Who Would Be Great in the Kingdom?

1. This is one of Jesus' favorite themes expressed in several different ways. *Matt 18:1-4; 23:11-12; Luk 18:14; Mark 9:35.*
2. It is the formula for greatness and He set the example *Phil 2:8-9.*
3. This parable is bracketed by this theme *Matt 19:30 and 20:16* and stems from Peter's question of *19:27-30.*

B. Understanding the Parable

1. The vineyard is therefore the kingdom
2. The landowner is God the Father
3. The foreman is the Son, Jesus Christ
4. The laborers are believers
5. The denarius is eternal life, which all received equally for trusting in Christ
6. The work day is the believer's lifetime of service
7. The evening is eternity

C. Equality in the Kingdom *Matt 20:9-12*

1. Joy of being last :9 Receiving a full share—also the thief on the cross *Luke 23:42-43*
2. The sin of presumption :10-12 Assuming something before its time is always dangerous. The first workers "supposed" (*assumed*) that they should receive more.
Need not Greed: The farmer paid according to need not greed. All of these day laborers need a full days wages to be able to feed their families.
Grace: The farmer [God] is an example of grace. The unhappy workers were looking at the situation based on "ME", rather than on God or others.

D. Grace and Gratitude in Service *Matt 20:13-16*

1. God is Sovereign :13-14 God can do what He desires to do and often chooses the lesser things to give honor to. Such as the widows mite. *Luke 21:3*
2. The Geese: Geese fly in formation for the benefit of all in flight. All who respond to Christ are equal disciples, and we must be careful not to measure our worth by what we have done and what we have sacrificed. This is what the land owner warned about in verse :15.

We cast down our crowns and sing:

You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created. *Rev 4:11*

Matthew 19:30; 20:1-16

:30 But many *who are* first will be last, and the last first.

:1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

:2 Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

:3 And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

:4 and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went.

:5 Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise.

:6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?'

:7 They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.'

:8 "So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them *their* wages, beginning with the last to the first.'

:9 And when those came who *were hired* about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius.

:10 But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius.

:11 And when they had received *it*, they complained against the landowner,

:12 saying, 'These last *men* have worked *only* one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.'

:13 But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?'

:14 Take *what is yours* and go your way. I wish to give to this last man *the same* as to you.

:15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?'

:16 So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."