

## 9. WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus told another parable to the Jews. He wanted them to understand that even though the Gentiles became a part of the church (or kingdom) later than they did, the Gentiles would be equally accepted into the kingdom. The same is true of all today, regardless of how old we are when we hear and obey God's Word.

The parable tells about a landowner, who went out to hire workers for his vineyard. The landowner represents God. The vineyard represents the church.

Jesus told how the landowner offered to pay all of the workers a coin that was a fair wage. He hired the first group early in the morning, around 6:00. Then around 9:00 in the morning the landowner went out and hired more workers, also offering them a fair wage. He did the same at noon and 3:00 in the afternoon. All agreed to work for the same amount of money.

Finally at the last hour, 5:00 in the afternoon, the landowner hired one last group of workers. They all quit working at 6:00 in the evening. So some worked 12 hours, some worked 9, others worked 6 and 3 hours and the last group only worked one hour.

The owner had his helper call the workers for the pay. He gave the last group the agreed upon amount, then those who worked 3, 6, 9 and 12 hours also received the same amount. Those who worked all day were upset because they did not get more money. The landowner told them they were paid the agreed upon amount. He was fair to them.

We should all serve God as many years as we can and help teach others. All have an equal chance to be saved at any age.

Fill in the answers to the numbered questions by looking up the verses in Matthew 20. Then use each numbered letter to fill in the words which are missing in the verse at the top of the page.

"And whosoever will be chief among you, 1 2 3

4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19."

1. The landowner went out early to hire labourers, or workers, to work in his 16 9 (v. 1).
2. He hired more workers at 9:00, or the 19 5 hour (v. 3).
3. He told the workers he would pay "whatever is 12 3" (v. 4).
4. He also went out again at "the sixth and 18 4 hour," (v. 5; about noon and 3:00 p.m.).

**Note:** The landowner also went out at the 11th hour, or 5:00 p.m., which is close to quitting time. He hired men who were idle because no one had hired them yet. He promised to pay them what was fair. When the day was over, all the workers received the same amount of pay.

5. The ones who were hired first "supposed that they should have received 6 10 8 (v. 10)," and they complained.

6. Even though they had worked during the "heat of the day," they said, and the last ones only worked one hour, "thou hast made them  $\frac{\quad}{14} \quad \frac{\quad}{11} \quad \frac{\quad}{1}$  unto us" (v. 12).
7. The owner answerer, "Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou  $\frac{\quad}{17} \quad \frac{\quad}{15} \quad \frac{\quad}{2}$  with me for a penny?" (v. 13).
8. Jesus said, "So the last shall  $\frac{\quad}{7} \quad \frac{\quad}{\quad} \quad \frac{\quad}{\quad} \quad \frac{\quad}{13} \quad \frac{\quad}{\quad}$ , and the first last" (v. 16).

Read the verse you have completed at the top of page two. Then read Matt. 20:28. Jesus came to serve. Talk about some of the ways Jesus served. What can you do to serve God? Here are a few ideas:



Flowers for  
the sick.



Study.

Help those in need.



Provide food for a Christian children's home.

Help clean the:



**FOR NEXT WEEK - Memorize:** "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22). **Read:** Matt. 21:28-32. **Bonus:** Eph. 3.

Unscramble the words from **Matthew 20** on the left and match them with the correct description on the right:

\_\_\_ 1. d i g m o k n  
\_\_\_\_\_

A. Where they worked

\_\_\_ 2. y e a r n v d i  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. Workers found idle here  
at the third hour

\_\_\_ 3. v e e e t n l h  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. When the first workers  
began

\_\_\_ 4. p m r e a k t c l e a  
\_\_\_\_\_

D. Jesus told parables  
about this

\_\_\_ 5. i h e r d  
\_\_\_\_\_

E. Those who worked  
longer did this

\_\_\_ 6. g t i h r  
\_\_\_\_\_

F. They were idle because  
no man did this

\_\_\_ 7. q l a u e  
\_\_\_\_\_

G. This hour was the last  
time to seek workers

\_\_\_ 8. y e l r a  
\_\_\_\_\_

H. Workers were paid an  
\_\_\_\_\_ amount

\_\_\_ 9. m m r d r u u e  
\_\_\_\_\_

I. The landowner said he  
would pay "whatsoever  
is \_\_\_\_\_"