

**Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service & Bible Study**

Bible Study Series: Speaking in Parables
Lesson 6: The Parable of the Owner of the Vineyard

Date: March 15, 2023
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Matthew 20:1-16 NIV 20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ² He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

³ “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴ He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ ⁵ So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶ About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

⁷ “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

⁸ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

⁹ “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰ So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹² ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

¹³ “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you.

¹⁵ Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

¹⁶ ***“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”***

Mysteries of the kingdom delivered in parables - Why?

Connection to previous chapter - Matthew 19:28-30 NIV ²⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ ***But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.***

Since Jesus said this in Chapter 19, Why does He repeat himself in Matthew 20:16?

Main Characters/Places/Things in the Parable

Landowner –

Vineyard –

Denarius/penny -

Early workers in vineyard -

Workers that are hired at later times -

Main Message of the Parable

1. Jesus came to the Jews first - Deut. 7:6, John 1:1, Mark 8:31
2. Gospel then preached to the Gentiles – received it and admitted with equal privileges & advantages with the Jews, fellow citizens – Ephesians 3:6
3. This concept disgusted and angered the Jews but with no reason.

John 1:11 AMP ¹¹ He came to that which was His own [that which belonged to Him—His world, His creation, His possession], and those who were His own [people—the Jewish nation] **did not receive and welcome Him.**

Mark 8:31 AMP ³¹ And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must [of necessity] suffer many things and be **rejected** [as the Messiah] by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and must be put to death, and after three days rise [from death to life].

Ephesians 3:3-6 NIV ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ **This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.**

Two major aspects of the parable – (1) agreement with the workers (2) settlement with the workers

Agreement with workers

1. Who hires them?
2. Where were they hired? What was their condition? What is the significance of the times when the workers are hired?
3. What are they hired to do?
4. What were the agreed wages? What is their term of work?

Settlement with the workers

1. The account was taken in the evening verse 20:8
2. The workers were paid, every man a penny
3. Pleading with those offended, Did the worker have the right to be offended?
4. Offense removed
5. God may do what He will with His own - Be thankful with what you have been given

General Concepts

1. God is debtor to no man, Does God owe you anything?
2. Sometimes people that began last will attain greater knowledge, grace and usefulness ex. Apostle Paul and the original disciples
3. Receiving of rewards is not based on the time of conversion

Application - Is there anything we can learn from this parable that we can apply to our lives today?