

The Parable of the
LABORERS

(1) The Setting

A. Begins With Rich Young Ruler (19:16-22)

- 1) “Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” (v. 16)
- 2) Jesus challenged him (v. 21)

B. Peter Questions Jesus (19: 27)

- 1) Peter feels deserving... (v. 27)
- 2) Spirit of question seems envious

Matthew 20:1-16

The Parable of the
LABORERS

(1) The Setting

C. Preceding & Following Phrase (19:30; 20:16)

Matthew 20:1-16

The Parable of the
LABORERS

(2) The Summary

A. The Laborers (20:1-7)

- 1) Hired early in the morning for 1 denarius (v.1-2)
- 2) Hired at third hour(9 am) for “whatever is right” (v.3-4)
- 3) Hired at sixth hour(12 pm) & ninth hour (3 pm) for unspecified amount (v.5)
- 4) Hired at eleventh hour(5pm) for “whatever is right” (v.6-7)

Matthew 20:1-16

The Parable of the
LABORERS

(2) The Summary

B. The Payment (20:8-12)

- 1) Laborers paid in reverse (v.8-9)
- 2) The first workers complained as they felt they deserved more! (v.11-12)

Matthew 20:1-16

The Parable of the
LABORERS

2) The Summary

C. Landowners Response (20:13-16)

- 1) I treated you fairly according to the agreement (v.13)
- 2) Receive your wage with gladness (v.14)
- 3) Do I not have the right to give my funds as I see fit? (v.15)

Matthew 20:1-16

The Parable of the
LABORERS

3) The Applications

A. Two Contrasting Attitudes

- 1) First Hired:
 - Feel Justified & More Deserving
 - Proud & Self-Reliant
 - Ungrateful & Lack Compassion for Others
 - Likely to Become Bitter, Hard to Correct
 - Want to be Given a Greater Reward

Matthew 20:1-16

The Parable of the
LABORERS

3) The Applications

A. Two Contrasting Attitudes

- 2) Later Hired:
 - Set Their Hope on God
 - Humble & Self-Empty (James 4:6)
 - Grateful for Grace Received
 - Contrite When Wrong, Willing to Please Him (Isaiah 66:1-2)
 - Believe God will Provide What is Needed

Matthew 20:1-16

**Religious People
Find God Useful.
Christians Find God
Beautiful!**