



Service notes for 19th July 2020

Matthew 20 verses 1-16: the
labourers in the vineyard

THE PARABLE

Vineyard owner (God) hires different sets of labourers (Christians) at different times of the day

Some work 12 hours, others 9, 6, 3 and even 1 hour

All get paid the same

Longest serving have wage agreed at the start, others 'paid what is right'.

"It is mine to decide what I pay"

WHO IS FAIR?

God is the creator, He sets the rules; our opinions don't count

Parable is a picture of God and his gift of salvation - we enter the kingdom not on our own merits but through Jesus' completed work

Reward is eternal life with Christ in heavenly perfection

WHO IS REBUKED?

All who work for the owner are rewarded the same

No right to question owner's decision

'Don't be jealous'

WHO IS REWARDED?

All who come to faith in Christ are rewarded the same, whenever that is and irrespective of their ability to work for Him in the amount of time they have

No difference between young / old / rich / poor – all one in Christ

Only important factor = all worked for the owner (God) so all were rewarded in accordance with His grace and mercy

DIGGING DEEPER NOTES

JULY 19TH 2020 – PARABLES OF THE LABOURERS IN THE VINEYARD

1. Do you think that God has acted fairly with you? Explain your answer.
 - (a) How does this affect your idea of what He is like?
 - (b) Does this parable challenge your idea of fairness?

2. How does the fact that God's kingdom is different from anything we can imagine or expect, affect how we think about those who don't know Jesus yet?

3. Does the idea of God as absolute sovereign over your life frighten you or excite you? What about:
 - (a) Your family?
 - (b) Your money?
 - (c) Your career?
 - (d) Your ambitions?
 - (e) Your relationships?
 - (f) Your habits?

4. Grace and Mercy are key attributes of God that are revealed in this parable. Define them in your own words, and then thank Him for them.

GRACE _____

MERCY _____

5. Where do you find your sense of worth?

6. How can we avoid being envious or jealous of other Christians?

7. Pray that God would reveal how you can be of service to Him, wherever and whoever you are. Thank Him that He WILL use you if you give yourself to Him wholeheartedly.