

Southside Baptist Church
Wednesday Night Worship – 12-10-25
Matthew Chapter 20 Part 1
The laborers in the vineyard.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) Verse 27 – Peter wanted to know, “what shall we have therefore?”
- 2) Verse 28 – When Jesus returns to set up His kingdom.
- 3) Verse 29 – “and every one” – Jesus extends this promise of rewards to others.
- 4) Verse 29 – “shall receive an hundredfold” – Do you believe this?
- 5) Verse 29 – “and shall inherit everlasting life” – eternal life with Jesus.
- 6) Verse 30 – To pursue the greatest here will result in the least there and to live and serve as the least here will result in the greatest there.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) We are still in the same paragraph.
- 2) Why do you serve the Lord? Why do you sacrifice as you do? What is your motive?
- 3) Jesus explains His statement in verse 30 through this parable.

2. The laborers in the vineyard. Matthew 20:1-16

a. Verse 1 –

- 1) “kingdom of heaven” – The situation in the Kingdom of Heaven is like this story.
- 2) “householder” – the master of the house.
 - a) This man goes “early in the morning” to find laborers.
- 3) This parable is NOT about salvation.
 - a) Salvation cannot be earned or purchased.

b. Verse 2 –

- 1) “And when he had agreed” - Householder makes an agreement with them about their wages.
 - a) “a penny a day” – regular wage.

c. Verse 3 –

- 1) “third hour” – 9 am.

d. Verse 4 –

- 1) The householder tells those standing in the marketplace – “go ye also into the vineyard.”
 - a) “whatsoever is right I will give you” – no specific amount is mentioned.

e. Verse 5 –

- 1) The householder goes again at noon and at 3 pm.
 - a) Why did he go again?

f. Verse 6 –

- 1) “And about the eleventh hour” – almost 5 pm.
 - a) He asked them – “Why stand ye here all the day idle?”

g. Verse 7 –

- 1) They tell him, “No man hath hired us.”
 - a) The householder hires them. “whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.”
 - b) I wonder what these laborers were thinking here.

h. Observations to consider:

- 1) The first group of workers made an agreement and headed off to work.
- 2) Why does the householder keep going back? A total of five times.

i. Verse 8 –

- 1) “steward” – the manager of the house and lands.

- 2) No specific instructions from the householder to the steward if there was to be a difference in the pay for any laborer.
- 3) The householder chooses an interesting order to pay the laborers.
 - a) Had he started with the first workers he may have avoided conflict.
3. The workday has ended.
 - a. Verse 9 –
 - 1) The owner decided to pay those who came at the eleventh hour a full day's wage.
 - b. Verse 10 –
 - 1) We find out here what the first group of laborers are thinking.
 - a) They have found out what the other laborers were paid.
 - 2) Quote – Warren Weirsbe:
 - a) “There were two kinds of workers hired that day: those who wanted a contract and agreed to work for a penny a day, and those who had no contract and agreed to take whatever the owner thought was right.”
 - c. Verse 11-12 –
 - 1) The householder is now being made to appear as an unjust man.
 - a) Are they right?
 - b) Their comment, “borne the burden and heat of the day”, is true.
 - d. Verse 13 –
 - 1) The householder reminds them of their agreement.
 - e. Verse 14 –
 - 1) Take what we agreed to and go home.
 - a) “I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.”
 - f. Verse 15 –
 - 1) He reminds them that he has a right to do what he wants to with his own money.
 - g. Verse 16 –
 - 1) Principle – To pursue the greatest here will result in the least there and to live and serve as the least here will result in the greatest there.
 - 2) What about, “for many are called, but few chosen.”
 - a) This is about serving, not about salvation.
 - 3) The parable is about the “kingdom of heaven.”
 - a) Many are called into the kingdom of heaven meaning that there are many believers who labor and may remain unknown and even obscure. God knows.
 - b) There are those that come into the kingdom that God chooses to call to service in specific positions of leadership and influence. Eph 4:11-12.
4. Tonight's Take Aways:
 - a. Having the right attitude when serving the Lord.
 - b. There are those who want to be first, they have their reward.
 - c. The truth of, “many are called, but few are chosen.”
 - d. Since the parable is like unto the “kingdom of heaven” we reason here that:
 - 1) God is gracious.
 - 2) God is Sovereign.
 - e. Don't be envious or jealous.
 - f. Salvation cannot be earned.