



YES
NO
MAYBE

1 I'm a harder worker than the person sitting next to me.

2 If you don't work, you don't eat.

3 We should all get paid the same, regardless of our education, work-ethic or productivity.

4 I don't understand why God blesses some people who don't work as hard as me.

5 God is unfair.

^| What are some of the things that get you to grumble the most in your workplace?

READ Matthew 20:1-16 [NIV]

"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."

~| What bothers you about this parable? How do we typically apply this within the church?

Î THE FINE PRINT...

° (v. 1) **Early One Morning** - [ἀμα πρω - *hama prōi*] A classic idiom. At the same time with early dawn, break of day, country fashion for starting to work.

° (vv. 3, 5,6) **Standing In the Marketplace Idle** - [ἔστωτας ἀγορᾶ ἀργούς - *hestōtas agorāi argous*]

This was a common practice where employers and workers would meet. This practice can still be seen today.

° **A Denarius** - [ἐκ δηναρίου - *ek denariou*] A denarius was regarded as good pay for a day's work. It was the pay of a Roman soldier in Christ's time. In almost every case where the word occurs in the New Testament it is connected with the idea of a liberal or large amount. Compare Matt. 18:28; Mark 6:37; Luke 7:41; John 12:5.



° (v. 4) **Whatever Is Right** - [ὅ ἐάν ᾧ δικαίον - *ho ean ēi dikaion*] "Is fair," not anything he pleased, but a just proportionate wage.

° (v. 11) **They Grumbled** - [ἐγογγυζον - *egogguzon*] Onomatopoeic word, the meaning suiting the sound. Our words murmur and grumble are similar.

° (v. 14) **What I Want** - [ὁ θελω - *ho thelō*] This is the point of the parable, the will of the Landowner.

° (v. 15) **Is Your Eye Evil?** - [ὁ ὀφθαλμος σου πονηρος ἐστιν - *ho ophthalmos sou ponēros estin*] The "evil eye." Looking "with sidelong glances." The idea is the same, envy being indicated by the look of the eye. Compare with Matt. 6:22-23.

¶ Seeing the "fine print" now, what are the greatest challenges in applying this Kingdom Tale?

¶ What are the issues that arise by implementing God's generosity in this way?

¶ How is this view of God's character different from how many represent Him today?

1 How willing am I to let God be overly generous to those working less than me?

2 How can I grumble less about God's generosity?

3 What do I understand more clearly about God's character, now that I've looked at this Kingdom Tale?

MY
PRAYER

NOTES