

The Parable of the Vineyard Workers

Matt. 20:1-16

Introduction:

- A. Parable pictures a common scene in agricultural areas.
- B. Parable illustrates three important aspects of kingdom of God.

Discussion:

I. The kingdom of God is WORK.

- A. The landowner went to hire laborers (v.1)- not sitters, standers.
 - 1. We are justified by works and not faith only. (Jas. 2:14-26)
 - 2. We are to work out our salvation. (Phil. 2:12)
 - 3. We are abound in the Lord's work - not in vain. (1 Cor. 15:58)
 - 4. We see laborers commended by inspiration. (Rom. 16:12).
 - 5. We will be judge according to works. (Rev. 20:12,13).
 - 6. We will will rest from labors and works follow us. (Rev. 14:13).
- B. The landowner was disturbed by idleness. (v.6)
 - 1. Idleness in general is condemned. (2 Thess. 3:6-15; 1 Tim. 5:13)
 - 2. Idleness in Lord's work condemned. (Mt. 25:26; Rom. 12:11; Heb. 6:12)

II. The kingdom of God is FAIR.

- A. The landowner kept his promise to the workers. (v.13)
 - 1. We can count of God's promises. (2 Pet. 3:9).
 - 2. We can count of a crown if faithful. (2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 2:10)
- B. The landowner promised to give what was right. (vv. 4,7)
 - 1. We need only trust that God will do this.
 - 2. We need not demand all the details or His judgment.
- C. The landowner was unjustly accused on being unfair. (10-12).
 - 1. The workers forgot that landowner did not have to hire them.
 - 2. The workers forgot that they agreed to the price.
- D. The workers forgot whose money was being distributed.
 - 1. It was his money to do as he pleased with it.
 - 2. It was not servants place to demand, expect or promise more than the landowner had promised.

III. The kingdom of God is MERCIFUL.

- A. The landowner was willing give the unemployed work.
 - 1. The Lord is willing to make us his servants. (Rom. 6:17ff).
 - 2. The Lord is willing to reward our efforts. (Heb. 11:6).
- B. The landowner was willing to go beyond mere merit.
 - 1. The Lord had given first hour workers (Jews) all had promised.
 - 2. The Lord gave latter hour people (gentiles) mercy.
 - 3. The equalized things in the end.
- C. The landowner did not strictly adhere to so much work, so much pay.
 - 1. We all need mercy. (Rom. 3:21; Eph. 2:8,9).
 - 2. We all would be lost if got what we really deserved.
 - 3. We all can receive reward regardless to when we began.

Conclusion:

- A. Whenever we receive invitation to work - act then - no assurance of another.
- B. Whenever we accept the invitation to work - will be reward is remain faithful.
- C. If the Lord gives another more than he has promised, I have no right to complain if he has given me what he has promised.