

Matthew 20:1-16

February 2, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro -

Lori Deschene: *"Life isn't always fair. Some people are born into better environments. Some people have better genetics. Some are in the right place at the right time. If you're trying to change your life, all of this is irrelevant. All that matters is you accept where you are, figure out where you want to be, and then do what you can, today and every day to move forward."*

Someone said: *"You work and do your best day after day after day and then an 8 year old boy yodels in Walmart and he's already more successful than you."*

Leif Enger: *"Fair is whatever God wants to do."*

Matthew 20 *emphasis added*

v. 1 - "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

v. 2 - Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

v. 3 - And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

v. 4 - and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I'll give you.' So they went.

v. 5 - Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, (*12 noon and 3 p.m.*) and did likewise.

v. 6 - And about the eleventh hour (*5 p.m.*) he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?'

v. 7 - They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you'll receive.'

v. 8 - "So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.'

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v. 9 - And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. (*They worked one hour and received a full day's wage*)

v. 10 - But when the first came, (*those who had worked 12 hours*) they supposed that they'd receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius.

v. 11 - And when they'd received it, they complained against the landowner,

v. 12 - saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who've borne the burden and the heat of the day.'

v. 13 - But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I'm doing you no wrong. Didn't you agree with me for a denarius?'

v. 14 - Take what's yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you.

v. 15 - Isn't it lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil (are you envious) because I'm good (*because I'm generous*)?'

v. 16 - So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

First, this parable *isn't about salvation*

- **because salvation isn't something you earn.**

Second, this parable *isn't about rewards*.

- **Everyone in the parable receives the same reward.**
- **But the Bible says, "God will render to each person according to their deeds."**
- **We'll see that later in the gospel of Matthew in the Parable of the Talents.**

"Sell what you have, give to the poor...and come *follow Me*."

Peter says to Jesus: We've left all and *followed You*... Therefore what shall we have?"

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1. There's plenty of work for everyone to do.

v. 6 - About the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' 7They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.'

There's always plenty of work to do in God's kingdom...

- **We need workers in our children's ministry**
 - **We need workers in the Camden Street Ministry**
 - **We need workers for our Fall Festival and Soccer Camp**
 - **We need workers for AWANA**
 - **We need workers on church work days**
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2. The landowner (God) is incredibly generous.

The first workers made a few critical mistakes.

#1 - They envied others.

Proverbs 14:30 - A sound heart is life to the body, but envy is rottenness to the bones.

- ***Why did Cain kill Abel?***
- ***Why did Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery?***

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- *Why did Saul hunt David?*
 - *Why was Daniel thrown into the lion's den?*
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#2 - They looked down on others.

v. 11 - They complained against the landowner, saying, ‘These last men have worked *only one hour*, and you made them *equal to us*.

1 Cor. 12:12, 21-22 - The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. The eye can't say to the hand, “I don't need you.” The head can't say to the feet, “I don't need you.” On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are indispensable.

#3 - They tried to bargain with God.

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v. 4 - and said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I'll give you.’ So they went.

#4 - They had a warped attitude about serving.

Psalm 100:2 - Serve the Lord with gladness.

3. There's a reward for all those who serve.

v. 8 - “So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and give them their wages.”

Heb. 6:10 - God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you've shown toward His name.

Bible: If you give a cup of water to someone in Jesus' name you'll never lose your reward.
