

PORTRAIT
OF THE
King



ADMINISTRATION

“Equal Pay for ‘Unequal’ Service”

MATTHEW 19:30-20:16



“⁹ There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, ¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. ¹¹ For God shows no partiality.”

Romans 2:9-11



- **“What is a parable?”** Means “to place beside” or “to cast alongside.” When we place one thing alongside another, and a comparison is made between the two.

Notes on Parables



- **“What is a parable?”**
- **“How should a parable be interpreted?”**
 - 1) Read from the original audience’s perspective.
 - 2) Look for the main point.
 - 3) Look at the context for the right interpretation.
 - 4) Don’t build doctrine from parables.

Notes on Parables



- **“What is a parable?”**
- **“How should a parable be interpreted?”**
- **“What is appealing about speaking in parables?”**

Parables are true to life and resonate with the listener. Parables stir up our affections and hold our attention.

Notes on Parables



KEY POINT:

God is equally **glorified** with varying degrees of **service.**



I. Who is involved in service? (20:1-9)

4 Questions in the Text



3 Primary Characters in the Parable

CHARACTER

SYMBOL

Master of the House

God, the Father

Workers

Us (Christians)

Foreman

God, the Son?



Workers Throughout the Day

TIME OF THEIR RECRUITMENT	WAGE
6:00am (early in the morning)	Denarius

Workers Throughout the Day

TIME OF THEIR RECRUITMENT

WAGE

6:00am (early in the morning)

Denarius

9:00am (3rd hour)

None discussed

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Noon (6th hour)

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3:00pm (9th hour)

None discussed

Workers Throughout the Day

TIME OF THEIR RECRUITMENT

WAGE

6:00am (early in the morning)

Denarius

9:00am (3rd hour)

None discussed

Noon (6th hour)

None discussed

3:00pm (9th hour)

None discussed

5:00pm (11th hour)

None discussed

“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning.”

Leviticus 19:13



“You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the LORD, and you be guilty of sin.”

Deuteronomy 24:15



- I. Who is involved in service? (20:1-9)
- II. What are some objections to the service of others? (20:10-12)

4 Questions in the Text



“And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, ‘Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?’”

Luke 5:30



- I. Who is involved in service? (20:1-9)
- II. What are some objections to the service of others? (20:10-12)
- III. Why is God fair in rewarding others? (20:13-15)

4 Questions in the Text



“But selfishness sees what it wants to see, and all those envious men could see was that they did not receive the grand bonus they expected and thought they deserved...Instead of rejoicing at the good fortune of their co-workers, they envied them and were bitter.”

**John MacArthur, his
commentary on Matthew**



“The grace of God is his fairest, noblest attribute, if we should be permitted to state it in this way...Any grace, that means any unearned favor, is absolutely within the will and the power of him who grants this favor. No man dare dictate to him regarding what he must or must not do in any case of bestowal of this favor...Anyone who appreciates grace as what it...

**R.C.H. Lenski, his commentary
on Matthew**



“...really is can only praise and glorify whenever he sees it granted. And every man who charges such grace with injustice when with evil, envious eyes he sees it bestowed on others, only insults the Giver of that grace and makes any bestowal of it upon himself impossible...Any grace is subject wholly and solely to the giver’s will.”

**R.C.H. Lenski, his commentary
on Matthew**



- I. Who is involved in service? (20:1-9)
- II. What are some objections to the service of others? (20:10-12)
- III. Why is God fair in rewarding others? (20:13-15)
- IV. What is the point of this parable? (19:39; 20:16)

4 Questions in the Text



KEY POINT:

God is equally **glorified** with varying degrees of **service.**



“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

II Corinthians 5:10

