

The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard

“1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. 2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. 5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? 7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive. 8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. 9 And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. 10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. 11 And when they had received it, they murmured against the Goodman of the house, 12 Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. 13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? 14 Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. 15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? 16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.” (Matthew 20:1-16 KJV)

Jesus again speaks another parable about the Kingdom of God. *“1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. 2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.”* (Matthew 20:1-2 KJV) Here the landowner went out early in the morning to hire laborers into his vineyard, to work and to do the work of God. God is looking for laborers into His vineyard to do the work of God. He is calling you to be laborers in His works and ministries. Laborers concern to do the hard work and not focusing on other things. They are focusing to do the task and not about how much they are offered and how much they need to work, or how much others are taking wages. The householder offered to the first group he hired one penny per day. But later on went out on different hours of the day, the third, sixth, ninth, and the eleventh hour of the day to hire people to work in the vineyard and agreed with them to pay them whatsoever is right for their work: *“3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. 5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? 7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.”* (Matthew 20:3-7 KJV). Here we can notice that three times repeated the Word ‘idle’. When he saw and found others standing idle he acted and sent them to do the work in the vineyard, and he even asked the last group, *“Why stand ye here all the day idle?”* because our Lord Jesus does not want to see someone idle, lazy, and without work but to be diligent to work, especially the work of God.

In Christ Jesus we are created to do the good work that God prepared in advance for us to do, *“10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”* (Ephesians 2:10 KJV)

Even if no one is concerned about you and willing to work with you, put in your mind that the Lord is there, as He did when He went out to hire those on the eleventh hour, *“6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? 7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.”* (Matthew 20:6-7 KJV) God is concerned about you and He is there willing to have you to be with Him in order to serve Him. So always ask yourself what for God created you in Christ, and pray to the Lord to show you and to direct you and leads you to the work that He prepared in advance for you to do.

So here the Lord also is concerned about our attitude and he wants us to be hard working and diligent, hate laziness, and have concern for His work, and to move quickly to the direction that He wants us to move in order for the work to be done, and no much concern about how much we will receive from the service that we will give.

The wrong attitude of the laborers will not be acceptable, but will be corrected by the Lord as we saw and discovered in this parable. God will not only reward you for your work and service unto Him, but also will correct your wrong attitude and deal with you and heal you from your wrong attitudes.

The time that the Lord will give you what is due for you, it will be the time that He will also correct you: *“8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.”* (Matthew 20:8 KJV) Here the lord of the vineyard said to his steward to call the laborers and give them their hire, and he started from those who hired last and gave them their hire first and he gave them one penny, *“9 And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.”* (Matthew 20:9 KJV)

The problem raised when the first group came to know that they had received same amount of money, one penny per day, the same as the other groups even the last one who joined the work for one hour only, *“10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. 11 And when they had received it, they murmured against the Goodman of the house,”* (Matthew 20:10-11 KJV) Therefore they started to grumble and complain against the householder, because they thought that they should receive more when they saw that he gave one penny to those who were hired on the last hour.

They thought that they had been mistreated by the landowner, and so they started to argue with him, *“12 Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.”* (Matthew 20:12 KJV) True they worked longer hours and had borne the burden and the heat of the day but the fact and the actual truth is not like that and he also explained it to them, *“13 But he answered one*

of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?" (Matthew 20:13 KJV) He told them that he agreed with them already about their payment, and they should not come now and argue, complain and grumble against him. *You should not argue, complain and grumble against the Lord, but rather focus to continue to do your assignment and the task that the Lord entrusted you to do.*

Further he rebuked those who grumbled against him directing them to go and continue to work, and that he will continue to do what he did, ***"14 Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee."*** (Matthew 20:14 KJV) *The Lord here is rebuking you and directing you once again to go and continue your work and service unto God, for He will not be listening or bend to your grumbling and complains and your wants.*

When we come to know the Lord God through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, the Lord had a good plan for us to achieve and to fulfill in our lives. As well as for each and every one of us there is certain plans, wishes and expectations and when things go wrong or when what we expect we don't meet, or when our plans not fulfilled, then we are prone to sin against the Lord by grumbling against Him, and against others.

Why people and even you grumble against the Lord and against others who are in leadership? There are some reasons behind that and as the following:

A. Un-satisfaction and lack of contentment of what they/you have and received from the Lord.

B. Unmet expectation and so causes frustration, of what they or you wish, and of what they or you desire and are not met. *Some of your expectation might be not the will of God for you, so you need to rethink and consider before you grumble.*

C. Being envious to others! Sometimes you are grumbling because you are just envious of those who have things more than of what you have. God has the right to distribute what belongs to Him as He wish, ***"15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?"*** (Matthew 20:15 KJV) But even so, the Lord had no favoritism, He is a just God and has no respect to person, ***"25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."*** (Colossians 3:25 KJV)

D. Comparing yourself to others. *Sometimes you are seeing people who had been labored less than you but they had things more than of what you have. That does not mean that God is favoring them more than you. Just consider this fact: God had given you certain things in some aspects more than of those whom you are comparing yourself with but you are not aware off.*

The danger of this way of thinking not only to cause grumbling against God and against the people who are around you but it might lead you to withhold and to withdraw from doing your best to the Lord and from doing what His will dictates over your life. And that dangerous attitude may take the blessing away from you and bring you to lower level, ***"16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen."*** (Matthew

20:16 KJV) With such attitude the first would become last. God is calling everyone but the attitude of people will determine if God will choose them or not. *Those who are of bad attitude even if they are called first then they will be last because of their bad attitudes, and those of good attitudes even they were the last He called then they will be the first because of their good characters.*

Many people when they are working they just work according to the salary or the benefits that they are receiving, and many they will not do good if the treatment is not well. Sad to say they do the same in their service to God, but that is not what the Lord wants from us, ***"23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."*** (Colossians 3:23-24 KJV)

The parable of the laborers of the vineyard teaches us certain principles in the Kingdom of God that we need to consider and follow in our lives:

1. When we do our best to the Lord that does not mean we are doing more, but we just doing what we ought to do, ***"25 And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us."*** (Deuteronomy 6:25 KJV) ***"10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do."*** (Luke 17:10 KJV)

2. In the Kingdom of God men receive what they need and not what they want. What our real need is the eternal life. Jesus when we received Him and started to follow Him He promised us eternal life if we continue to abide in His word and ways. No one who is going to enter the Kingdom of God with us will do less than following the Lord wholeheartedly. Those who complained in the parable, if they will just think; on the next day those who were hired on the last hour they should report to work early and in the first hour of the day and bear the heat of the day and the long hours burden of the work.

3. God continually calling men of different degrees of moral attainment and spiritual privileges to serve Him and work in His vineyard. So God look after people to serve Him and that should be in your mind so you will know what to do to God; to serve Him.

4. We have no right to ask God to give us more than of what is in our hand. Because what we received is eternal life and we should value that.

5. God is not unjust for He gives what He promised, ***"13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?"*** (Matthew 20:13 KJV) The penny He promised is the eternal life.

6. God has the sovereign freedom to do as He pleases. It is up to Him to give us more. If God wants to be generous more with us that is up to Him; but it is not to us to demand.

7. You should not be envious if God is generous with others. God is also good to you in many aspects, pause and count your blessings! Also if God is generous with you, you will not tell Him stop Lord blessing me.

8. To be grateful better than to be grumbler because grateful attitude will be rewarded. But grumblers will find themselves back and out.

My dear and beloved: *We are called to minister before the Lord by having the right mind and the right Christian attitudes, to be diligent, grateful, thankful, and faithful to Him. Never compare yourself with others, never question God and ask Him why, and never give up doing good.* ***“9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. 10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:9-10 KJV)***

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the teaching that I received today from your Word, and that made me aware of how you want me to live my life for you. Lord I commit myself to work wholeheartedly to serve you and walk in your ways in whatever the situation or the circumstances because I know that you had prepared a place for me in Heaven,*

Repent and renounce your sins; grumbling, complaining, arguing with God, envying and coveting others, laziness and non willingness to work hard and diligently. Lord I repent and renounce all the following sins _____. Lord I dedicate myself to serve you wholeheartedly and to invest all what I have in your service.

Lord I commit myself to live my life according to your Word, denying myself, living as true disciple of yours, and bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit, being abound in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Help me Lord to do that and live my life in such a way.

Lord I pray for my brethren who repented of their sins and committed their lives to you, Lord I pray that you will use them to serve you and to reach new people and with right mind and attitude. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the Spiritual gifts that they need in their lives to go on and serve you.

Lord bless us as a church and enable us to reach new people and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard. Matthew 20:1-16. Ephesians 2:10. Colossians 3:23-25. Deuteronomy 6:25. Luke 17:10. Galatians 6:9-10.

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