

The Parable of the Workers

November 20, 2016

Matthew 20:1-16 NASB

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

2 "When he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard.

3 "And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the market place;

4 and to those he said, 'You also go into the vineyard, and **WHATEVER IS RIGHT I WILL GIVE YOU.**' And so they went.

5 "Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did the same thing.

6 "And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day long?'

7 "They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.'

8 "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last group to the first.'

9 "When those hired about the eleventh hour came, each one received a denarius.

10 "**WHEN THOSE HIRED FIRST CAME, THEY THOUGHT THAT THEY WOULD RECEIVE MORE; BUT EACH OF THEM ALSO RECEIVED A DENARIUS.**

11 "**WHEN THEY RECEIVED IT, THEY GRUMBLED AT THE LANDOWNER,**

12 **SAYING, 'THESE LAST MEN HAVE WORKED ONLY ONE HOUR, AND YOU HAVE MADE THEM EQUAL TO US WHO HAVE BORNE THE BURDEN AND THE SCORCHING HEAT OF THE DAY.'**

13 "**BUT HE ANSWERED AND SAID TO ONE OF THEM, 'FRIEND, I AM DOING YOU NO WRONG; DID YOU NOT AGREE WITH ME FOR A DENARIUS?**

14 **'TAKE WHAT IS YOURS AND GO, BUT I WISH TO GIVE TO THIS LAST MAN THE SAME AS TO YOU.**

15 **'IS IT NOT LAWFUL FOR ME TO DO WHAT I WISH WITH WHAT IS MY OWN? OR IS YOUR EYE ENVIOUS BECAUSE I AM GENEROUS?**

16 "So the last shall be first, and the first last."

There are 3 comparisons which will poison your faith and exhaust your soul:

1. ***"I have suffered more than they have."***

"...have borne the burden and the scorching heat of the day..."

2. ***"I have worked harder than they have."***

"...they thought that they would receive more..."

3. ***"I deserve more than they have."***

"...you have made them equal to us..."

2 Corinthians 10:12 NASB

12 For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; **BUT WHEN THEY MEASURE THEMSELVES BY THEMSELVES AND COMPARE THEMSELVES WITH THEMSELVES, THEY ARE WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING.**

"...WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING..."

1. *the dangers of comparison*
2. *the goodness, justice and wisdom of God*

DANGERS OF COMPARING

Psalm 73:1-24 NASB

1 A Psalm of Asaph. Surely God is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart!

2 But as for me, **MY FEET CAME CLOSE TO STUMBLING, MY STEPS HAD ALMOST SLIPPED.** (*faith aborted*)

3 **FOR I WAS ENVIOUS** (*envy, jealousy, rivalry*) **OF THE ARROGANT AS I SAW THE PROSPERITY OF THE WICKED.**

4 For there are no pains in their death, And their body is fat.

5 They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like mankind.

6 Therefore pride is their necklace; The garment of violence covers them.

7 Their eye bulges from fatness; The imaginations of their heart run riot.

8 They mock and wickedly speak of oppression; They speak from on high.

9 They have set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue parades through the earth.

10 Therefore his people return to this place, And waters of abundance are drunk by them.

11 They say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge with the Most High?"

12 **BEHOLD, THESE ARE THE WICKED; AND ALWAYS AT EASE, THEY HAVE INCREASED IN WEALTH.**

(*presumption, delusion, deception*)

13 **SURELY IN VAIN** (*unbelief, distrust, anger, bitterness towards God*) **I HAVE KEPT MY HEART PURE AND WASHED MY HANDS IN INNOCENCE;** (*self-righteousness, spiritual pride*)

14 **FOR I HAVE BEEN STRICKEN ALL DAY LONG AND CHASTENED EVERY MORNING.** (*self-pity, performance-based faith*)

15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children.

16 **WHEN I PONDERED TO UNDERSTAND THIS, IT WAS TROUBLESOME IN MY SIGHT.**

17 **UNTIL I CAME INTO THE SANCTUARY OF GOD; THEN I PERCEIVED THEIR END.**

18 **SURELY YOU SET THEM IN SLIPPERY PLACES; YOU CAST THEM DOWN TO DESTRUCTION.**

19 **HOW THEY ARE DESTROYED IN A MOMENT! THEY ARE UTTERLY SWEEP AWAY BY SUDDEN TERRORS!**

20 Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when aroused, You will despise their form.

21 **WHEN MY HEART WAS EMBITTERED** (*chamets - to be leavened, pungent, sour taste*) **AND I WAS PIERCED WITHIN,**

22 **THEN I WAS SENSELESS** (*ba`ar - brutish, stupid, foolish*) **AND IGNORANT; I WAS LIKE A BEAST BEFORE YOU.**

23 **NEVERTHELESS I AM CONTINUALLY WITH YOU; YOU HAVE TAKEN HOLD OF MY RIGHT HAND.**

24 **WITH YOUR COUNSEL YOU WILL GUIDE ME, AND AFTERWARD RECEIVE ME TO GLORY.**

Luke 18:9-14 NASB

9 And He also told this parable to some people **WHO TRUSTED IN THEMSELVES THAT THEY WERE RIGHTEOUS, AND VIEWED OTHERS WITH CONTEMPT:**

10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 "The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: '**GOD, I THANK YOU THAT I AM NOT LIKE OTHER PEOPLE: SWINDLERS, UNJUST, ADULTERERS, OR EVEN LIKE THIS TAX COLLECTOR.'**

12 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'

13 "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'

14 "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Galatians 6:3-5 NASB

3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

4 **BUT EACH ONE MUST EXAMINE HIS OWN WORK, AND THEN HE WILL HAVE REASON FOR BOASTING IN REGARD TO HIMSELF ALONE, AND NOT IN REGARD TO ANOTHER.**

5 **FOR EACH ONE WILL BEAR HIS OWN LOAD.**

BEARING YOUR LOAD

1. *Am I content with the life God has given me?*
2. *Do I rejoice in His goodness, His justice, His wisdom for my life?*

Ecclesiastes 3:22 NASB

"I have seen that nothing is better than that man should be happy in his activities, for that is his lot."

Genesis 4:3-8 NASB

3 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground.

4 Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering;

5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. **SO CAIN BECAME VERY ANGRY AND HIS COUNTENANCE FELL.**

6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

7 **"IF YOU DO WELL, WILL NOT YOUR COUNTENANCE BE LIFTED UP? AND IF YOU DO NOT DO WELL, SIN IS CROUCHING AT THE DOOR; AND ITS DESIRE IS FOR YOU, BUT YOU MUST MASTER IT."**

8 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that **CAIN ROSE UP AGAINST ABEL HIS BROTHER AND KILLED HIM.**

"SO CAIN BECAME VERY ANGRY AND HIS COUNTENANCE FELL."

1. *Is God right to chasten me this way?*
2. *Do I rejoice in His chastening, knowing His every intention is good?*

Hebrews 12:11 NASB

"All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness."

John 21:18-22 NASB

18 "Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go."

19 Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me!"

20 **PETER, TURNING AROUND, SAW THE DISCIPLE WHOM JESUS LOVED FOLLOWING THEM;** the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

21 **SO PETER SEEING HIM SAID TO JESUS, "LORD, AND WHAT ABOUT THIS MAN?"**

22 **JESUS SAID TO HIM, "IF I WANT HIM TO REMAIN UNTIL I COME, WHAT IS THAT TO YOU? YOU FOLLOW ME!"**

"WHAT IS THAT TO YOU?"

1. *Don't expect other's life journey to conform to yours.*
2. *Don't try to conform your life journey to others.*

Matthew 20:4 NASB

4 and to those he [Jesus] said, 'You also go into the vineyard, and **WHATEVER IS RIGHT I WILL GIVE YOU.**' And so they went.