Laborers in the Vineyard

Greg Kline · Matthew 20:1–16

INTRODUCTION

- Peter said, We have left everything and followed you. What then will we have? And that's the question for this morning in verse 27.
- It is the only time in Matthew chapter 20 that it is said specifically that the master of the house and the laborers agreed to a payment.
- The problem was when they looked at others and saw what they had and said, that's not fair. That's not right.

1 We Are All Called to Work for the Lord

Luke 17:7–10; Ephesians 2:4–10; Matthew 9:35–38

- We all must work for the Lord. But I wonder how many of us are standing by idly in the marketplace.
- So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, We are unworthy servants. We have only done what was our duty.
- Is there not a significant difference in the attitude that says, What will Jesus do for me? And what will I do for Jesus?
- For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
- And in verse 36, what was Jesus' response to the masses? He had compassion on them.
- Until the day that Jesus comes again, there will always be need in the fields of the Lord.

2 What God Offers Is Worth Everything

Matthew 19:29; Luke 14; Matthew 13:44–46

- Our God offers us something greater than equal pay for our service. If we got what was fair, we would be eternally separated from Jesus.
- Following Jesus is worth our everything. Even if we have to start working for him at the very beginning of the day.
- If we are called to work for the Lord, and we are his servants, we are indebted to him. We should remove the pride and arrogance that suggests that we deserve more than anyone.
- What God has promised to us, is to free us from our sins and allow us to be with him forever.
- The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

3 Our Salvation Is an Individual Matter

2 Corinthians 5:10; Galatians 3:26–29; 1 Peter 5:5–6

- When we stand before God, our salvation is an individual matter. First of all, I answer for myself.

- For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- They let it move out of their minds because they were more preoccupied with what? Fairness. With how they did more, with how they've been serving longer.
- When someone comes forward, we rejoice with them. In Matthew chapter 20, the laborers first hired weren't rejoicing with them.
- But the truth is what God offers to us is not fair. If we want what is fair, we can burn in hell.
- For God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so at the proper time he might exalt you.

THE CHALLENGE

I need to make myself right with God today. And that furthermore, I need to look with humility towards others, not preoccupying myself with how others are answering before Jesus, but answering, how will I follow my God?

MY NOTES