

Matthew 20:1–16

So, the landowner went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

The usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

[Left side of congregation]

When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.

Then the landowner went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.

And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.'

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When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.

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And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'

But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?'

Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

## Questions

How much did you earn?

Those who worked an hour or two

Those who worked all day

What's wrong with this picture?

How do you feel about your pay?

What do you think about the others' pay?

What do you think of the landowner's response?

Does it make a difference that the late workers didn't work because no one had hired them?

Who might such people be today?

Immigrants

Chronically unemployed

Disabled

Homeless

Would you feel differently if in the story a CEO earned the same as one of the hourly workers?

CEOs average 65 times higher pay than the average worker.

Does it make a difference that you were paid \$10,000 for the day?

What does that say about what you earned?

What role does envy play in our judgment?

Does God (life) give us what we deserve?