

Some Good News Is God Fair?

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard."

Matthew 20:1-2 (NKJV)

3 And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. 5 Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.'

Matthew 20:3-7 (NKJV)

8 "So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.' 9 And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. 10 But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. 11 And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, 12 saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.' 13 But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what is yours and go your way. 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 my own things? Or are you envious because I am generous? 16 So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

Matthew 20:8-16 (NKJV)

3 Parts of the Story:

1. The agreement

2. The twist

3. The 'no explanation' explanation

15 'I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.' 16 It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy." **Romans 9:15-16 (NIV)**

- **GOD ISN'T FAIR.**
- **GOD DOESN'T EVEN PRETEND TO BE FAIR.**
- **HE'S INCREDIBLY UNFAIR TO OUR FAVOR.**

- **He decided NOT to give us what we deserve = MERCY**
- **He decided to GIVE US exactly what we DON'T deserve = GRACE**

Who are the 11th hour workers in our day? WE ALL ARE