

ONCE UPON A TIME

The Vineyard Workers

IS GOD FAIR?

Matthew 20:1-2 (NKJV)

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 20:3-7 (NKJV)

³ And he went out about the third hour (**9 AM**) 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 (**12 PM**) and the ninth hour, (**3 PM**) and did likewise.

⁶ And about the eleventh hour (**5 PM**) 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 20:8-16 (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.*"

The agreement

The twist

The 'no explanation' explanation

Romans 9:15-16 (NIV)

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.*

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