



“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. So, when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. So, the last will be first, and the first will be last.” (Matthew 20:1;10-11;16 - NIV)

Prayer: Lord God, You have called me into Your Kingdom and You leave no one standing idle. Help me to order my life by Your wisdom and to serve You in willing obedience: through Jesus Christ, Your Son my Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN



Order of Worship – The Common Service Without L.S. – pg. 15

- Greetings by the Pastor

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

Opening Hymn **C.W. 225 / TLH 10**

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

First Lesson – Isaiah 55:6-11 – God’s Word Always Works.

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 27 (Lit. pg. 75 – Sung by Monica McInnis)

Second Lesson – Philippians 1:15-26 – To Live is Christ!

Gospel Lesson – Matthew 20:1-16 – Parable of the Workers

The Apostle’s Creed – (Pg. 19)

Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 421 / TLH 425**

Sermon Text: Matthew 20:1; 10-11; 16

Sermon Theme: Are You Satisfied With God’s Love?

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering (The plates will not be passed but are at the entrance doors)

Offering Prayer

Prayer of The Church

Lord’s Prayer (Traditional Version)

Hymn **C.W. 486 / TLH 442**

Collect / Prayer (pg. 25)

Benediction

Hymn **C.W. 293 / TLH 283**

Wherever You Are, There Is God’s Mission Field.

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 20:1; 10-11; 16

Vs. 1 – For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard.

Vs. 10 – So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius.

Vs. 11 – When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

Vs. 16 – So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

GREETING: Jesus says: heaven & Earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away. .
(Matt. 24:35)

The account of the thief on the cross is a beautiful example of God's Grace, of God's undeserved Love in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Luke 23:39-43)

When Jesus was crucified, both thieves (Mark 15:32) were insulting Jesus, BUT then something happened!

The Word of our Lord Jesus worked faith in the heart of one of the thieves.

Jesus Who said as they crucified Him, "**Father forgive them for they know not what they do.**" (Luke 23:34)

It was after this that the one thief had a change of heart, as he said to Jesus, "**Remember me when you come into Your Kingdom.**" (Luke 23:42)

It was to this that the Lord Jesus spoke great words of comfort to this thief on the cross; "**I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.**" (Luke 23:43)

Not *maybe*, OR - *after* your soul has spent thousands of years in torment, but **TODAY!**

We see this thief on the cross who was such a notorious law breaker that he deserved to be crucified, as he himself says to the other thief: "**We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve.**" (Luke 23:41) After this thief dies, he is reassured by Jesus Christ, Lord and God, that he will wake up in heaven!!! The account of the thief on the cross is GREAT comfort to every human being who knows their sin and is weighed down with its guilt, yet finds true comfort in the forgiveness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

HAVE YOU EVER FELT A BIT JEALOUS OF THE THIEF ON THE CROSS?

He lived his life, doing whatever he wanted, whenever he wanted, to the point that it landed him on the cross, but now after a life of unfaithfulness to God, he will still be in heaven because he was brought to faith in Jesus at the end of his life, the "eleventh hour".

While you on the other hand, have been faithful to God all the days of your life, conscious of God's Word, doing all that you could to serve God and His people in all that you say, do and think.

Have you ever thought, "I have been slaving away for the Lord God all my life, while this thief went skipping along in life, and he will be in heaven with me?" (Prof. Franzmann warns about what he refers to as a "mercenary spirit" Bible History Commentary, Vol. 1, pg. 502)

Today in this parable of "*The workers in the Vineyard*" The Lord Jesus warns against the attitude of self righteousness and pride of those who think they deserve God's Grace.

In the previous chapter of the book of **Matthew 19:16-24** – there is the account of the Rich Young Man who thought that he had and could keep the entire Law of God. Jesus listed of the commandments of God, and the Rich Young man said, “**All these I have kept.**”

Then after the Rich Young man said this, Jesus instructed the Rich Young man to “**Sell ALL his possessions and give to the poor, then come follow ME.**”

To this the Rich Young man went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Even the disciple Peter said to Jesus concerning himself and the other disciples, “**We have left everything to follow You! What then will there be for us?**” (Matt. 19:27) – (A mercenary spirit)

To this attitude the Lord Jesus tells the Parable for today’s Sermon.

There was a Landowner Who went out to hire workers for His Vineyard.

He went out early in the morning. The Jewish work day began at 6:00 a.m.

The Landowner made an agreement with these workers for a denarius for the entire day.

This was the customary “Daily Wage”.

The Landowner then needed more workers for His Vineyard and so He went out and found others standing in the marketplace at the 3rd hour of the Jewish work day (9:00 a.m.) – the 6th hour of the work day (12 Noon) – the 9th hour of the work day (3:00 p.m.).

The Landowner needed still more workers for His Vineyard and so He went out again about the 11th hour of the Jewish work day (5:00 p.m.) and they also went to work in the Vineyard of the Landowner.

In the text, we see that those who were hired at the 3rd – 6th – 9th & 11th hour, they did not have a contract or agreement set up, they were simply told: “**I will pay you whatever is right.**” (Matt. 20:4)

It then came time to pay. The foreman was instructed by the Landowner: “**Pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hire and going on to the first.**” (Matt. 20:8)

All those who were hired at the 11th hour – 9th hour – 6th hour – 3rd hour –ALL received a denarius as their payment. They all received payment for a FULL DAYS WORK! WOW!!!

We are told that those who were hired at 6:00 a.m. saw this, and they began to get their hopes up.

When it was time for those to be paid who began working at 6:00 a.m. they also received a FULL DAYS Wage. ONE Denarius. They had the honor and privilege of working in the Vineyard of the Landowner and they were paid.

BUT, we are told that they complained. They grumbled against the Landowner.

They complained because they did MORE Work and had to BEAR the HEAT of the Day!

It was to this that the Landowner reminded them that they had AGREED to this. That was the Contract!

The Contract has been paid. One Denarius for One Days Work. A Days Wage for a day of Work!

The Landowner then adds: “**Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and GO - υπαγε - (See also Matt. 4:10). I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?**” (Matt. 20:13-15)

Jesus then concludes the Parable: This Earthly story with a Heavenly meaning:

Vs. 16 – So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

In other words:

Those who are FIRST in the ways of this world, or FIRST in their own mind are LAST in the Kingdom of God due to trusting in themselves, and not in Jesus our Risen Savior.

Those who are LAST in this world, or LAST in their own mind (burdened with guilt and shame and sin), but FIRST in the Kingdom of God through faith in Christ Jesus Our Risen Lord and Savior.

Christ Jesus has made payment for the sin of the World.

ALL those who have been faithful to Christ Jesus for their entire life have heaven because of Jesus.

ALL those who have come to faith at the 11th hour of their life have heaven because of Jesus.

“God so loved the World, that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but has eternal life.” (Jn. 3:16) AMEN

THEME: Are You Satisfied with God’s Love?