

Laborers in the Vineyard

Introduction

Matthew 20:1-16

Matthew 20:1 For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

1. **Our Master used so many commonplace things to teach spiritual lessons.**
2. **We can learn yet another lesson concerning our spiritual life in this teaching.**

The Householder Went out to HIRE Laborers

- 1. He offered an incentive to get men to work in his vineyard.**
- 2. He did not try to scare men into the vineyard.**
 - A.. A scared man would be a poor workman therefore we can learn that we too should not scare men into the church.**
 - 1) They would soon get over being scared and then be all but worthless in their work.**
- 3. He did not try to force men into his vineyard.**
 - A.. Neither should we try to force men into the Lord's church.**
- 4. He only wanted volunteers.**
 - A. The Lord is calling for volunteers. He drafts no one into his army. Every Christian is one because he wants to be.**

5. **He agreed with the laborers to give them a decent wage if they would work in his vineyard. This incentive helped them volunteer.**
 - A. **What does Jesus offer us to get us into his vineyard? Listen: **Matthew 11:28-30****
 - 1) **We will be rewarded with a sweet rest for our souls! There can be no greater inducement!**
 - B. **Those outside of Christ will not find rest now or hereafter for their souls. **Revelation 22:14****
 - C. **To get into the vineyard of the Master we must DO His commandments, and to get into heaven we must continue to DO His commandments. But that should be a JOY for US!**

The Householder Went out to Hire **LABORERS**

1. **It is important to note here that he did not want loafers and shirkers.**
 - A. **He wanted men who would work!**
 - 1) **There is no place for a lazy man in the kingdom of God.**
 - 2) **When we are baptized into Christ, we promise to work.**
 - a) **The Lord set us the example of hard work:**

John 9:4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

2. The night of death will soon overtake each of us. We must work now. Our opportunity to work will be gone before long.

A. The apostle Paul said:

1 Corinthians 15:58

1) We may do a lot of work on this earth in vain, but we never do any work for the Master in vain!

2) Anything we do for Jesus is recognized by Him.

B. There is no place in the life of a Christian for discouragement - especially when we remember for whom we are working.

Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

1) This was written to Christians. Christians are not eternally saved yet, BUT we SHOULD BE busy working out our salvation with fear and trembling.

3. One cannot loaf it out, One cannot shirk it out – one must work it out!

James 2:14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? **Can faith save him?**

A. One thing that every Christian should know for sure is that they cannot be saved by faith only!

James 2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

B. A faithful Christian will be a working Christian. Those that are working realize the importance of serving God and each other. Your faith drives you to WORK.

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

C. We can see faith living in every Christian that's working!

The Householder Went out to Hire Laborers INTO HIS VINEYARD

- 1. It does make a difference where the work is done. The work must be done in the right vineyard.**
 - A. Many are doing a lot of good work, but they are doing it in the wrong place.**
 - B.. Some must think that as long as they work, it doesn't matter where they work.**
 - 1) EXAMPLE: If you were a farmer hiring a man to work on YOUR farm.**
 - You would not think you owed the man anything if he worked on the neighbor's farm.**
 - He may have done a good work, but he did it in the wrong place.**

2. We MUST look to the one for whom we work for the pay.

- A. If you're expecting a reward from Jesus, you must work where HE tells you to work, and that place is in HIS church.**

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

- B. What we do in word or deed covers just about all that we do.**

- 1) To do a thing in the name of the Lord Jesus is to do it by His authority.**
- 2) Therefore, a faithful Christian is ensuring they're working in the Lord's vineyard.**

The Laborers Went at the **FIRST** Opportunity

1. **We can see that men went to work in the vineyard at different hours of the day.**
 - A. **Some went in the morning, while some did not go until evening; but all went at the first opportunity - They did not turn down the invitation.**
2. **If you have heard the gospel once, but turned it down, you did not act as these men acted.**
3. **All are encouraged to obey the Master's call at the very first opportunity. (Matthew 9:9 – Matthew called to be an apostle)**
 - A. **Many have been taught the way of the Lord, know what they must do to be saved, but have refused to come to Jesus.**
 - B. **There will many such souls in hell. They fully intended to go to work at some time in the vineyard, but they just postponed their obedience until it was ETERNALLY TOO LATE.**
4. **If you are outside of Christ this morning, He's asking you to come work in His vineyard. Don't let this opportunity pass you by!**

Conclusion

- 1. Let us remember these four great lessons:**
 - A. The householder went out to **HIRE** laborers**
 - B. The householder went out to hire **LABORERS****
 - C. The householder went out to hire laborers **INTO HIS VINEYARD****
 - D. The laborers went at the **FIRST** opportunity:**
- 2. Won't you volunteer now to labor in the vineyard of Christ?**
 - A. Jesus is asking you to take this opportunity to respond – it may be the last opportunity that you will ever get.**

Invitation

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