

Matthew 20: 1- 16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. 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. ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one 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?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Matthew 20: 1- 16 (landowner)

a landowner went out early to hire
workers He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day
About nine in the morning he went out and saw others
He told them, go and work and I will pay you whatever
is right.'

He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About
five in the afternoon he went out and found others

He said to them, go and work When evening came, the
owner said 'Call the workers and pay them
beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'

The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon each received a denarius
those who were hired first,
also received a denarius they began to
grumble

'I am not being unfair
I want to give the one who was hired last the same
as I gave you.

I am generous

Questions to Consider:

1. What is your impression of the landowner? Does your impression change from the beginning of the story to the end?
2. In what ways does the landowner show himself to be generous? Why do you think he keeps heading back to the marketplace?
3. How do the landowner's actions illustrate the 'first being last, and the last being first?' What do you think it means for us?

Matthew 20: 1- 16 (those hired first)

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the day.' he answered 'I am not being unfair Didn't you agree to
work for a denarius?
I have the right to do what I want with my own money are you envious
because I am generous?' the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Questions to Consider:

1. What is your impression of the workers who were hired first? Are there any ways in which you relate to them?
2. Do you think they are wrong about their complaints? What does this story suggest about equality? How do you define equality?
3. What do you think those hired first learned about the 'first being last, and the last being first?' What insights do you think those lessons carry for us?

Matthew 20: 1- 16 (those hired last)

a landowner went out early to hire
workers He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day

About
five in the afternoon he went out and found others standing around. 'Why
have you been standing here all day no one hired us,' they
answered. He said 'You go and work When evening came, the
owner said pay them their wages

The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius.

the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Questions to Consider:

1. What is your impression of the workers who were hired last? Are there any ways in which you relate to them?
2. What do you think their expectations of pay were? How do you think they understood equality before meeting this landowner?
3. What do you think those hired last learned about the 'first being last, and the last being first?' What insights do you think those lessons carry for us?

Matthew 20: 1- 16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day

(WORKING, WORKING, WORKING – WAITING, WAITING, WAITING) About nine in the morning he went out and saw others He told

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about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. (WORKING, WORKING, WORKING –

WAITING, WAITING, WAITING) About five in the afternoon he went out and found still

others He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day

no one has hired us,’ He said to them, ‘You also go and

work (WORKING, WORKING, WORKING – WORKING, WORKING)

WORKING) ‘Call the

workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

(WAITING, WAITING, WAITING – WAITING, WAITING, WAITING)

The workers hired about five in the afternoon

each received a denarius. those who were hired first expected to

receive more. But each of them also received a denarius. they

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and you have made them equal to us the burden of the work and the

heat of the day.’ But he answered ‘I am not being unfair

I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

(WORKING, WORKING, WORKING – WAITING, WAITING, WAITING)