

## *The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard*

*“<sup>1</sup> For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup> He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ <sup>5</sup> So they went. “He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup> 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?’ <sup>7</sup> “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup> “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.’ <sup>9</sup> “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. <sup>12</sup> ‘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.’ <sup>13</sup> “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’ <sup>14</sup> Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup> Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup> “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” (Matthew 20:1-16)*

Jesus again speaks another parable about the kingdom of God. Here the landowner went out on different hours of the day to hire people to work in the vineyard and agreed with them to pay them one denarius as wage for their work. The problem had been raised when the first group come to know that they had received same amount of money and as the same as the last group who joined the work for one hour. Therefore they started to grumble and complain against the landowner, because they thought that they had been mistreated by the landowner, but the fact and the actual truth is not like that.

When we come to know the Lord God through faith in Jesus Christ our lord, the Lord had a good plan for us to achieve and to fulfill in our lives. As well as for each and every one of us there is certain plans, wishes and expectations and when things go wrong or when what we expect we don't meet then we are prone to sin against the Lord by grumbling again Him.

Why people grumble against the Lord? There are some reasons behind that and as the following:

- A- Un-satisfaction and lack of contentment of what they have and received from the Lord.
- B- Unmet expectation and frustration of what we wish and of what we desire. Some of your expectation might be not the will of God for you, so you need to rethink and consider yourself before you grumble.
- C- Being envious to others! Sometimes you are grumbling because you are just envious of those who have things more than of what you have.
- D- Comparing yourself to others. Sometimes you are seeing people who had been labored less than you but they had things more than of what you have. That does not mean that God is favouring them more than you. Just consider this fact: God might given you certain things in some aspects more than of those whom you are comparing yourself with.

The danger of this way of thinking not only to cause grumbling against God and against the people who are around you but it might lead you to withhold and to withdraw from doing your best to the Lord and from doing what His will dictates over your life. And that dangerous attitude may take the blessing away from you and bring you to lower level, **“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”** Many people when they are working they just work according to the salary or the benefits that they are receiving, and many they will not do good if the treatment is not well. But that is not what the Lord wants from us, **“<sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, <sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” (Colossians 3:23-24)**

The parable of the Lord teaches us certain principles that we need to consider and follow in our lives:

- 1- When we do our best to the Lord that does not mean we are doing more, but we just doing what we ought to do, **“And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.” (Deuteronomy 6:25)**
- 2- In the Kingdom of God men receive what they need and not what they want. Jesus when we received Him and started to follow him he promised us eternal life if we continue to abide in His word and ways. No one who is going to enter the Kingdom of God with us will do less than following the Lord wholeheartedly.
- 3- God continually calling men of different degrees of moral attainment and spiritual privileges to serve Him and work in His vineyard. So God look after people to serve Him and that should be in your mind so you will know what to do to God: to serve Him.
- 4- No-one has any claim on God for more than anyone else. We have no right to ask God to give us more than of what is in our hand. Because what we receive is eternal life and we should value that.
- 5- God is not unjust for He gives what he promised, **‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’** The denarius He promised is the eternal life.
- 5- God has the sovereign freedom to do as He pleases. It is up to Him to give us more. If God wants to be generous more with us that is up to Him; but it is not to us to demand.
- 6- You should not be envious if God is generous with others. God is also good to you in many aspects, pause and count your blessings!
- 7- To be grateful better than to be grumbler because grateful attitude will be rewarded. But grumblers will find themselves back and out.

**My dear and beloved:** As royal priests we are called to minister before the Lord by having the right mind and the right attitude. Last advices for you is to never compare yourself with others, never question God and ask him why, and never give up from doing good. Therefore, **“<sup>9</sup> Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” (Galatians 6:9-10)** As we agree to pray

**My prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the eternal life that I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, Lord I commit myself to work wholeheartedly to serve you and walk in your ways whatever the situation or the circumstances because I know that you had prepared a place for me in heaven, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*