The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard
Matthew 20:1-16

**Main Thought**
We should work for the Lord without comparing ourselves to others knowing that our God is generous and will do what is right.

**Background (19:27-30).**
- Like the Pharisees, the rich young ruler (19:22) had not left everything to follow and trust Christ unlike Peter and the apostles (19:27).
- Peter should not worry about wages (contract – 20:2) but investments.
- The two stories are tied together by the FIRST WILL BE LAST (19:31; 20:16).

**Imitate Christ’s Busyness – as workman (1).**
- Christ starts before sunrise and works all day (3, 6, 9, 11 hour) for He neither sleeps nor slumbers (Psa. 121:3-4; 1 Kings 18:27).
- As Christ has come to do the will of his Father (John 9:4), so to have we work to do that he has prepared for us (Eph. 2:10) with all fervor (Rom. 12:11).

**Work for Christ – as sent ones (2).** We have been commissioned and sent to make disciples of all nations – baptizing and teaching them. We are all apostles (GK = apostello – to send).

**Look Straight Ahead – do not compare and grumble (11).**
- We are not to compare ourselves with others (2 Cor. 10:12).
- Saul compared himself with David and became jealous (1 Sam. 18:6-9).
- We should fix our gaze on Jesus and look straight ahead (Prov. 4:24; Joel 2:8).

**Trust Christ’s Generosity (15).**
- The earliest workers agreed to a guaranteed contract (2) while the later workers accepted “what ever was right” (4) from a generous God (15).
- As with Job (Job 42:10, 12), God can and will richly repay you (6:20; Luke 6:38).
- If you trusted Christ as a child and have served him all your life, you should not begrudge the one who found Christ late in life. You will both be saved!
- The JEWS, who have had a relationship with God since Abraham should not begrudge the GENTILES who are now being included (Rom. 1:16). Though they are late to salvation, they will share together with the Jews the promise of Christ (Eph. 3:6).

**Seize the Moment – it is never too late (16).**
- Even if you wait until the eleventh hour, God will in His generosity reward you with eternal life (1 Cor. 15:8).
- “Now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2).
- It is never too late as long as you are still alive (Luke 16:26).

**Epilogue – (16).**
- This enigmatic phrase is repeated (19:30) but in reverse order. The FIRST are the Jews (rich young ruler) and the LAST are the Gentiles (CHURCH).
- In heaven, those who faithfully serve Christ will receive a hundred times as much and inherit eternal life (19:28-29; Heb. 11:6; Rev. 22:12).