



**The Parable of the Workers
Stewardship Parables (Part-3)
Sunday Sermon, July 19, 2026**

THE PARABLE OF THE WORKERS

Matthew 19:27-30

27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?"

28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

Matthew 20:1-16

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

2 Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

3 And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

4 and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went.

5 Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise.

6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?'

7 They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.'

8 "So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.'

9 And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius.

10 But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius.

11 And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner,



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12 saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.'

13 But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?

14 Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you.

15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?'

16 So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

Matthew 19:27

Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?"

The Lord Jesus spoke this parable of the workers in response to this statement and question from Peter.

The parable also explains the meaning of His statement: "But many who are first will be last, and the last first." (19:30)

For the kingdom of heaven is like...

Jesus is explaining how the Kingdom of God operates, particularly God's grace, sovereignty, and rewards.

Twelve hour work day, 6am-6pm, John 11:9 "Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours in the day?...'"

We have people who were sent to work in the vineyard at different times in the day:

Early morning (6am), worked 12 hours

Third hour (9am), worked 9 hours

Sixth hour (12Noon), worked 6 hours

Ninth hour (3pm), worked 3 hours

Eleventh hour (5pm), worked 1 hour

The landowner promised to pay "a denarius a day" to those who started in the morning and to the others he said "whatever is right I will give you". They all started work trusting in the landowner to do the right thing for them.

20:8 "...give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first."

This is the playing out of the statement the last will be first and the first will be last.

The workers who came in last were the first to receive their wages.

a denarius to all



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The first workers watched the last workers receive a full day's wage, a denarius. The first workers assumed they would receive more "But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius." (20:10).

LET'S BEGIN WITH THE END

Matthew 20:16

So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

Two intriguing statements about God's Kingdom:

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

For many are called, but few chosen.

"FIRST" AND "LAST"

What does "first" and "last" mean?

There are two aspects to the "first" and "last", as given in this parable.

A, "first" and "last" have to do with chronology, and therefore indicating seniority, rank, order and importance.

B, "first" and "last" having to do with the amount of time, work, labor, sacrifice, visible ministry

INSIGHT #1: GOD OVERTURNS HUMAN RANKING SYSTEMS.

God does not work according to human expectations of importance and reward.

In God's Kingdom, those who appear insignificant, last or least in terms of rank and order, or amount of sacrifice and labor, may receive greater honor. (See 1 Corinthians 12:23-25)

Those who think they deserve more because of seniority, sacrifice, or visible ministry may discover that God's evaluation is very different.

The workers who came first received exactly what had been agreed upon (one denarius), while those who came later received far more than they had earned.

INSIGHT #2: EVERYONE RECEIVED THE SAME, INDICATING GOD'S WAY OF WORKING.

The point of the parable is not proportional wages based on labor - how much and how long you have worked. Neither is it based on when you started - right at the very



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beginning - or you come in at the tail end. This speaks to us about God's sovereign grace and generosity on those of us who serve in His kingdom. God treats us all equally, gives us all access to His grace and empowering required for the assignments He has given us.

THE MANY AND THE FEW

Matthew 20:16

So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

Many are invited to serve in God's Kingdom. Many enter and many serve. But not everyone serves with a good and faithful heart. The issue is not of merely entering the vineyard and serving but doing so with the right heart and working together and celebrating all the others who also come to serve in the vineyard. And since they who came in at the very beginning, although being called into the vineyard did not serve with the right heart, were not commended in the end. Being called does not automatically mean receiving God's full commendation. Our heart attitude matters. Only a few serve with the right heart, and hence are the "chosen".

Calling gives us entrance.

Heart attitude determines if we are commended and become the "chosen".

LESSONS TO APPLY

20:11 they complained against the landowner

We must guard our heart towards God, when we see how He works through others. There are diversities of operations. God works differently through each one. We should not become jealous with others or angry with God, when He works differently, perhaps more powerfully, more quickly through others.

20:13 I am doing you no wrong

Understand that God is not obligated to us in any manner. We are His servants. Also, understand that in all His ways, God is just and true. He will do us no injustice.

20:13 Did you not agree with me for a denarius?

We have willingly agreed to serve the Lord anytime, anywhere, anyway.

So, when we offer ourselves unreservedly in surrender – we should mean it.

God is free to use us – and we should not get offended if He does not work in manners we expected.

20:14 Take what is yours and go your way.



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Our heart attitude determines our relationship with God.
Our relationship with God is more important than the rewards we get from serving Him.
If our focus becomes on rewards, then our relationship diminishes, becomes transactional – and God allows us to “go our own way” which often does not lead to good outcomes.

20:14 I wish to give to this last man the same as to you.

20:15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things?

God is free to do as He chooses in His Kingdom.
He is sovereign.

20:15 Or is your eye evil because I am good?

To put it in other words: *"Are you envious because I am generous?"*

Their joy disappeared only after comparing themselves with others.
Comparison produces envy, complaining and resentment. Comparison destroys gratitude.

2 Corinthians 10:12

For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

Romans 14:4,12

4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.
12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

Here are some serious questions we can ask ourselves to check our own hearts:

Am I serving because I love Christ, or because I expect recognition?

Am I secretly comparing my ministry with others?

Do I become discouraged when someone else appears more blessed?

Can I genuinely rejoice when God greatly uses another servant?

Do I believe God's grace is sufficient, even if my work is unnoticed?

The first laborers lost their joy not because the master treated them unfairly, but because they measured themselves against others.

PETER'S QUESTION



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And finally, we return to Peter's question on "what shall we have?" or "what will I get?", which prompted this parable:

Matthew 19:27

Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?"

Key takeaways from this parable:

A. Never compare yourself with others or other ministries

God evaluates differently. Our assignment is faithfulness.

1 Corinthians 4:6

Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

B. God rewards everyone as He sees best

Don't worry about what you will get.

God is a Rewarder!

Serve faithfully as a good steward. Trust His promises. He will keep His word. God will take care of the reward.

Hebrews 6:10

For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

C. Keep a humble heart when you are blessed with an early start and long service

Do not allow your early start and long service create a sense of entitlement.

"But by the grace of God I am what I am..." (1 Corinthians 15:10)

D. Don't think you are superior because you are rewarded quicker and same as others who have labored long

E. A right heart is more important than seniority or visibility

This parable invites us to exchange comparison for contentment and celebration of each other. Whether God calls us at the "first hour" or the "eleventh hour," whether our ministry is public or hidden, long or brief, our privilege is the same: to work in the Master's vineyard along with many others He has also called.



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Our greatest reward is not that we have earned something for ourselves while serving Him, but that He graciously called us to Himself and entrusted us with His work. What a privilege! What an honor!

We must delight and celebrate His goodness and generosity in the way He works and rewards our fellow laborers. When we do this, we reflect the very heart of our King and His Kingdom. In God's kingdom humility, gratitude, and trust are valued above status, seniority, or self-importance.

KINGDOM LAWS OF STEWARDSHIP

#1: To whom much is given, much will be required (Luke 12:48)

#2: Everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. (Matthew 25:29)

#3, So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen. (Matthew 20:16)

SUMMARY

- A. Never compare yourself with others or other ministries
- B. God rewards everyone as He sees best
- C. Keep a humble heart when you are blessed with an early start and long service
- D. Don't think you are superior because you are rewarded quicker and same as others who have labored long
- E. A right heart is more important than seniority or visibility

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



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Sunday Sermon, July 19, 2026**

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 1.5 to 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

Life Group Leader: To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon or review the Sunday Sermon notes. Please do not make your life group read through the complete sermon notes during the life group. All you need to do is have individuals read the Scriptures listed below and then open for a time of discussion, sharing and learning using the questions given below. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *Matthew 19:27-30, Matthew 20:1-16*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Life Group is a discussion-based, participatory meeting with everyone given the opportunity to share their learning. Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Based on the parable of the workers, discuss these two insights:

Insight #1: God overturns human ranking systems.

Insight #2: everyone received the same, indicating God's way of working.



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2, Discuss the key takeaways from this parable:

- A. Never compare yourself with others or other ministries*
- B. God rewards everyone as He sees best*
- C. Keep a humble heart when you are blessed with an early start and long service*
- D. Don't think you are superior because you are rewarded quicker and same as others who have labored long*
- E. A right heart is more important than seniority or visibility*

Each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key insights and how they see themselves applying it to their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow, bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.*

Close by thanking God together.



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USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

BELIEVERS BIBLE COMMENTARY: <https://believersbiblecommentary.com>

SERMON OUTLINE

In this third sermon on Stewardship Parables, we consider the parable of the workers and draw understanding about how God's Kingdom operates. We learn that God overturns human ranking systems. Everyone received the same, indicating God's way of working. Key lessons we take away, include: A. Never compare yourself with others or other ministries. B. God rewards everyone as He sees best. C. Keep a humble heart when you are blessed with an early start and long service. D. Don't think you are superior because you are rewarded quicker and same as others who have labored long. E. A right heart is more important than seniority or visibility. This sermon includes free audio (mp3) and video of this powerful, motivational, expository teaching, free printable PDF sermon outlines, sermon notes and small group study guide with discussion questions and presentation slides. All resources (sermon PDF, sermon MP3, sermon video, sermon presentation) are free for use in personal study, small groups, Bible study prayer groups, local churches, conferences, Bible colleges, etc.

KEYWORDS



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Parable of the workers in the vineyard, christian stewardship, stewardship parables, parables of Jesus, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

Word Pictures in the New Testament. Archibald Thomas Robertson. Published in 1930-1933; public domain.

Word Studies in the New Testament. Marvin R. Vincent, D.D. (1886).

Free Bible software and AI tools are also used as Bible study aids, from time to time.