

Matthew 20:1-16
(NLT)

- 1 "For the Kingdom of Heaven is like the owner of an estate who went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard.
- 2 He agreed to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work.
- 3 "At nine o'clock in the morning he was passing through the marketplace and saw some people standing around doing nothing.
- 4 So he hired them, telling them he would pay them whatever was right at the end of the day.
- 5 At noon and again around three o'clock he did the same thing.
- 6 At five o'clock that evening he was in town again and saw some more people standing around. He asked them, 'Why haven't you been working today?'
- 7 "They replied, 'Because no one hired us.' "The owner of the estate told them, 'Then go on out and join the others in my vineyard.'
- 8 "That evening he told the foreman to call the workers in and pay them, beginning with the last workers first.
- 9 When those hired at five o'clock were paid, each received a full day's wage.
- 10 When those hired earlier came to get their pay, they assumed they would receive more. But they, too, were paid a day's wage.
- 11 When they received their pay, they protested,
- 12 'Those people worked only one hour, and yet you've paid them just as much as you paid us who worked all day in the scorching heat.'
- 13 "He answered one of them, 'Friend, I haven't been unfair! Didn't you agree to work all day for the usual wage?'
- 14 Take your money and go. I wanted to pay this last worker the same as you.
- 15 Is it against the law for me to do what I want with my money? Should you be jealous because I am kind to others?'
- 16 "So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last."