

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 215: THE PARABLE OF THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD
MATTHEW 20:1-16

"God's kingdom is like a man who owned some land. One morning, the man went out very early to hire some people to work in his vineyard. He agreed to pay the workers one silver coin for working that day. Then he sent them into the vineyard to work. "About nine o'clock in the morning the man went to the marketplace and saw some other people just standing there doing nothing. So he said to them, 'If you go and work in my field, I will pay you what your work is worth.' So they went to work in the vineyard. "The man went out again about twelve o'clock and then again at three o'clock. Both times he hired some others to work in his vineyard. About five o'clock the man went to the marketplace again. He saw some other people standing there. He asked them, 'Why did you stand here all day doing nothing?' "They said, 'No one gave us a job.' "The man said to them, 'Then you can go and work in my vineyard.' "At the end of the day, the owner of the field said to the boss of all the workers, 'Call the workers and pay them all. Start by paying the last people I hired. Then pay all of them, ending with the ones I hired first.' "The workers who were hired at five o'clock came to get their pay. Each worker got one silver coin. Then the workers who were hired first came to get their pay. They thought they would be paid more than the others. But each one of them also received one silver coin. When they got their silver coin, they complained to the man who owned the land. They said, 'Those people were hired last and worked only one hour. But you paid them the same as us. And we worked hard all day in the hot sun.' "But the man who owned the field said to one of them, 'Friend, I am being fair with you. You agreed to work for one silver coin, right? So take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same pay I gave you. I can do what I want with my own money. Why would you be jealous because I am generous?' "So those who are last now will be first in the future. And those who are first now will be last in the future."

**215. THE PARABLE OF THE WORKERS IN THE
VINEYARD
MATTHEW 20:1-16**



“The workers who were hired at five o'clock came to get their pay. Each worker got one silver coin. Then the workers who were hired first came to get their pay. They thought they would be paid more than the others. But each one of them also received one silver coin.” **MATTHEW 20:9-10**

215. THE PARABLE OF THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD

MATTHEW 20:1-16

MEMORY VERSE:

"For the last shall be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen." MATTHEW 20:16

Review Questions

True or False

1. A man who owned some land went out and hired some workers to work in his vineyard.
2. He agreed to pay the workers 100 silver coins for working that day, and then sent them into the vineyard to work.
3. About 9 o'clock in the morning the man went to the marketplace and saw some people just standing around doing nothing, so he told them if they went to work in his field, he would pay them what their work was worth.
4. Then he went again at 12 o'clock and again at 3 o'clock and found more people, and told them the same thing, but they would not go.
5. The man went back at 5 o'clock and found some more people and asked them, 'Why are you just standing there all day doing nothing?' and they answered, "No one gave us a job." so he hired them too.

Questions

1. When it was evening, what did the owner of the field tell the boss of all the workers to do?
2. Who did he tell the boss of the workers to pay first? Who did he tell to pay last?
3. Who did he tell the boss of the workers to pay first? Who did he tell to pay last?
4. How much did each worker get paid?
5. What did the workers who were hired first think about how much they would get paid?
6. Were the workers who worked all day in the hot sun happy that the workers that only worked one hour got the same amount of money that they got?
7. What did the man tell those workers when they complained?
8. Who will be first in the future? Who will be last?

Lesson 215 Activity

Act It Out!

After class, there is sure to be quite a mess – cups, paper plates, napkins, crayons, trash, etc. Tell the class that the classroom is the land owner's "vineyard" or "field".

Characters:

Land Owner

Boss of the Workers

Workers

Have the workers go stand in one area of the classroom which you designate as the 'marketplace'.

Have the land owner go over and tell one or two children (if you only have 7 or 8 children, have the land owner only ask one child at a time) that they can go work in his field for the day for one silver coin.

Let the child(ren) start picking up the trash, putting up crayons, etc.

Have the land owner go back to the 'marketplace' and ask one more child if they would like to go work in his field. Let that child go help the first one for a minute or two.

Then have the land owner go back two more times until all the children are helping clean up the classroom.

After everything has been cleaned up, have the landowner tell the Boss of the Workers to go call all the workers and pay them each one silver coin, starting with the last ones (make sure you keep track of who was picked last, then second to last, etc.!!), then ending with the first ones.

Have the first child(ren) complain that they worked all day long in the hot field, and the other children didn't work as long as them, and one or two even only worked one hour! Have them say they should be paid more money than the last ones.

Have the landowner tell that child these things,

"I am being fair with you.

You agreed to work for one coin, right?

So take your pay and go.

I want to pay the last workers the same that I paid you.

It is my money, and I can do what I want with it.

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

From now on the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Ask the children how they would feel if their parents told them to clean the whole house for one month's allowance, and they cleaned all day, then just before you finished your brother or sister or friend came and helped you, and your parents gave you BOTH the one month's allowance payment? This is how those workers felt! God wants our attitude to be right because He will give us all a reward for serving Him! It's not about what He gives other people- it's about serving Him because we love him!

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer asking for God's help with an attitude of service to Him. If any children have not responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.