

# Workers in the Vineyard Mt 20:1-16

John Wesley:

"There are few matters more repugnant to reasonable people than the grace of God."

- Why would he say that?

# Workers in the Vineyard Mt 20:1-16

- Follows the Rich Young Ruler (19:16-30)
- Peter asks “What do we get?”
- Followed by mother of James and John (20-28)
- All 3 are addressed to the disciples.
- All 3 are about the Cost of Discipleship.
- Just before Palm Sunday; last Parable?
- All 3 end with “last shall be first”.

# Workers in the Vineyard Mt 20:1-16

- Denarius = day's wage ( ~ \$100 now)
- Hour = daylight time divided by 12
- Crop is ripe (wine or table grapes)
  - No fast transport to market
  - Harvest must be gathered quickly

# Workers in the Vineyard Mt 20:1-16

- Workers all agree and trust they will be paid.
- What does their trust say about the owner?
- None complain nor negotiate when hired.
- None refuse to work.
- Those hired at 11<sup>th</sup> hour waited all day.

# Workers in the Vineyard Mt 20:1-16

- Who were likely chosen First? Last?
- Would first feel Grateful? Proud? Superior?
- Would last feel Ashamed? Inferior?
- How did Jesus mean “friend” in v. 13 ?

# Workers in the Vineyard Mt 20:1-16

- What is the main theme?
- Accountability ?
- Fate ?
- Grace ?
- Injustice ?
- Free will ?

# Workers in the Vineyard Mt 20:1-16

- Why did owner line up the last first?
  - Grumbling by “first” ?
  - Would “first” see “last” as “slackers” ?
  - Just to underscore “last shall be first” ?
- Do we ever complain to God “It’s not fair!” ?

# Workers in the Vineyard Mt 20:1-16

- Would God accept people I detest?
- Those who break 10 commandments?
- If so, would I want to be there?
- Would I accept them in heaven?
- Do our judgments of others divide the church?
- Why is it so easy to make comparisons?
  - Does this gain us anything?

# Workers in the Vineyard Mt 20:1-16

- Why is it so hard to accept God's Grace?
- What about "last shall be first" ?
- Have you enjoyed your work in the Vineyard?
  - Is the work a reward in itself?
  - Do you feel honored to have worked here?
  - Are you jealous of others who have done more?
- Can we see all as "we" instead of "us v. them"?

# Workers in the Vineyard Mt 20:1-16

- Compare what you do in retirement with what you did earlier.
  - Were you grateful for the earlier work?
  - For your work now?
- In telling us this parable, what is God asking us to do?

# **Workers in the Vineyard Mt 20:1-16**

**Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;  
Things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:  
Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,  
Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.**

**First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,  
And I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;  
Words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,  
All in the lovelight of Jesus' face.**

**Into the city I'd follow the children's band,  
Waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;  
One of his heralds, yes, I would sing  
Loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"**