

Hourly or Salary; Matthew 20:1-16

I. What Do We Get?

- A. The event of the rich ruler precedes this parable
- B. Matthew 19:27; Then Peter said in reply, “See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?”
- C. Mateo 19:27; —¡Mira, nosotros lo hemos dejado todo por seguirte!—le reclamó Pedro —. ¿Y qué ganamos con eso?
 - 1. Jesus gives the 12 apostles the answer; they will be sitting on 12 thrones in judgement
 - 2. All others will inherit eternal life (along with all the blessings in the heavenly realm)
 - 3. Ephesians 1:3; Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
 - 4. Ephesians 1:3; Alabado sea Dios, Padre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, que nos ha bendecido en las regiones celestiales con toda bendición espiritual en Cristo.
- D. Matthew 19:30; But many who are first will be last, and the last first.
- E. Matthew 19:30; Pero muchos de los primeros serán últimos, y muchos de los últimos serán primeros.
- F. This seems to be what the following parable is all about

II. Hiring Laborers

- A. Day laborers
 - 1. Unemployed people would gather at the city center or market place in hopes that farmers would need help in their fields and would hire them for the day
 - 2. We still have this kind of employment today
- B. Contracts and agreements
 - 1. Every company (small or large) that hires employees has standards of conduct that govern their behavior (and sometimes even what they wear)
 - 2. Some of very formal, written down, and signed by all parties involved
 - a) The Air Force has a very strict dress and appearance regulation (185 pages long)
 - b) I am still subject to that regulation (as a veteran) when I where the uniform
 - c) If I were to violate that regulation then I would be subject to corrective action (up to and including a discharge from the Air Force)
 - 3. The Master of the House contracted one denarius for the first set of laborers
 - 4. All the others he said, “whatever is right, I will give you”
 - a) That would make us think that He had divided the number of working hours by a denarius
 - b) He would pay them a certain amount for each hour (we have hourly wages not daily wages)
 - c) Could you imagine being desperate enough for work to take the verbal promise of your employer, “whatever is right, I will give you”?
 - 5. There are two different sets of workers, the ones hired first contracted for a denarius
 - 6. And the ones hired during different hours of the day contracted for “whatever is right”

III. Pay Day!

- A. Those who work on an hourly wage normally have some kind of device for tracking the number of hours they have worked
- B. I used to have time cards and a time clock when I worked for Rockview Dairy Drive Thru, Thrifty Drug Store, JC Penney, and I’m sure there were a few more
- C. The Military was my first job I was on salary
 - 1. Every one of the same rank gets the same pay, regardless of the job

2. As Security Forces, I worked 14 hours a day on a cycle that had me working weekends and holidays
 3. Others worked Monday - Friday 8-5, weekends and holidays off but got paid the same
 4. Others worked longer hours than I did (the jet had to be fixed so it could fly the next day) and got paid the same
 5. And others faced death (combat) working months without a day off (often with only a couple hours of sleep) and got paid the same
 6. It took everyone of us to accomplish the mission of the US Air Force
- D. Now comes the time for the Master of the House to settle accounts with the laborers
1. They obviously thought they were on an hourly wage, even though the Master contracted with them for a daily wage
 2. It is interesting in the parable that Jesus has the ones hired last paid first; it must be to impress upon His audience the desired lesson in the parable
 3. Verse 12 is the key to understanding this parable
 4. Matthew 20:11–12; 11 And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 12 saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'
 5. Mateo 20:11–12; 11 Al recibirla, comenzaron a murmurar contra el propietario. 12 "Estos que fueron los últimos en ser contratados trabajaron una sola hora—dijeron —, y usted los ha tratado como a nosotros que hemos soportado el peso del trabajo y el calor del día."
- E. The laborers have an "hourly wage" mentality, 'I worked more; therefore, I am worth more'
1. Some people get their worth from what they do
 2. We should get our worth from who we are
 3. We are children made in the image of the Creator of the universe
 4. We all have the same worth
 5. "All men are created equal"
 - a) Louisiana Representative Valerie Hodges sponsored a bill requiring 4-6 grade children recite a portion of the Declaration of Independence
 - b) Louisiana Representative Barbara Norton argued against the bill because 'For the Declaration of Independence only Caucasians were free. 'And for you to bring a bill to require that our children will recite the Declaration of Independence, I think it's a little bit unfair.'
 - c) She suggested the founding fathers were hypocritical and said it was unfair 'to ask those children to recite something that's not the truth'.
 6. There is nothing truer in the Declaration than this statement
 7. All mankind is made in the image of God... equal in worth because of whose image we are made in
 8. Some of us choose to get hired by the Master of the house early in the morning
 9. Some wait until the end of the day
 10. That doesn't change our worth to the Father one bit
 11. John 3:16–17; 16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.
 12. Juan 3:16–17; 16 »Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo, que dio a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo el que cree en él no se pierda, sino que tenga vida eterna. 17 Dios no

envió a su Hijo al mundo para condenar al mundo, sino para salvarlo por medio de él.

13. 2 Peter 3:9; The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

14. 2 Peter 3:9; El Señor no tarda en cumplir su promesa, según entienden algunos la tardanza. Más bien, él tiene paciencia con ustedes, porque no quiere que nadie perezca sino que todos se arrepientan.

F. We are all children of God, from the homeless crack addict living on the street to the billionaire living in his mansion

G. God wants all of us to be called "His Children" and give each one of us a days wage (eternal life)

IV. Hourly or Salary

A. What is our mentality?

B. Do we claim worth from what we do?

C. Or do we claim worth from who we are?