

## Laborers in the Vineyard; Matthew 21:28-32

### I. Working

A. I won't... but I will

B. I will... but I won't

C. From the very beginning, work is something that has been required of us

1. Genesis 2:5–7; 5 When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, 6 and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— 7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.
2. Genesis 2:15; The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

D. I would even go so far as to say we were created to work (Ephesians 2:10)

1. Most people feel a draw to working in some form or another
2. Many can do work that they love and never feel like they are working
3. Some grind away working where they do not want to just to provide for their family
4. God's idea of our work is to accomplish His goals, not ours
5. We should be a people zealous for good works (Titus 2:14)

E. Are we working in the vineyard?

1. 2 Peter 1:5–10; 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.
2. Notice how working on our own relationship with the Father keeps us from being “ineffective or unfruitful”
3. This is where we start, with ourselves
4. As we further develop these qualities our relationship with the Father deepens and His desires become our work
5. The Spirit dwells in us and pushes us to develop His qualities
6. Galatians 5:22–25; 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.
7. We know we are making progress when all our decisions are based on the Father's wishes and not ours

F. This parable and the one right after it are linked together based on the sons or the tenants working in the vineyard

### II. Fruits

A. Matthew 21:33-41

B. Notice the change of focus in this parable

1. In the first parable it is a question of who does the work

2. In the second parable it is a question of who gets the fruit of the work
  - C. The hired men working the vineyard represent the religious leaders of the day
    1. They were keeping the fruits of their labor for themselves and not for the owner of the vineyard
    2. Those that harvest the cotton for the farmers don't get to keep the cotton
    3. Those that work in investment firms don't get to keep the money (embezzlement)
    4. It is the same with all workers
    5. Galatians 6:6–10; 6 Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. 7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.
    6. The “one who teaches” is sharing what he has learned; each person is giving the fruit of their labor over to God
    7. Colossians 3:23–25; 23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. 25 For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.
    8. It is very clear what will happen to those who keep what belongs to God
    9. Matthew 21:43–44; 43 Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. 44 And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”
  - D. We must be a people who give all that we have and all that we are to God
- III. Laborers
- A. We have been “hired” work in the vineyard
  - B. Our task is to give God the fruit of our labors
    1. By developing in ourselves the fruit of the Spirit
    2. By developing the qualities of God in ourselves