

The Parable of the Vineyard Workers + Owner/ The Storyteller
Matthew 20:1-16 NLT / July 5, 2026
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THAT'S NOT FAIR!

Our culture of meritocracy + fairness

Peter's sentiment: What will we get? (Matthew 19:27 NLT)
Jesus' answer to this question is this parable.

THE PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD WORKERS + OWNER

Matthew 20:1-16 NLT

- 6am → Contract
- 9 / 12 / 3 → "What's right"
- 5pm → Still invited
- God pursues all day long

END OF THE DAY PAY

- Last paid first
- 6am expects more
- "That's not fair!"
- Gratitude → Grumbling

THE LANDOWNER'S RESPONSE

Two Haunting Questions:

- Is it against the law for me to do what I want with my money?
- Should you be jealous because I'm kind to others?

The last shall be first.

WHERE THIS LANDS TODAY

1. Which worker do you resonate with the most?

- Marveling or measuring?

2. Do you want grace, or do you want fairness?

- Comparison makes us accountants.

3. What is the true reward?

- The vineyard, the other workers, and the Landowner
- Don't be a sideliners!

4. Do you know God is still pursuing you?

- It's never too late.
- Jesus paid the price so grace would be the Father's generous response (Matthew 20:17-19)