

## Basic

# The Parables of Jesus

## That's not fair!

### The Workers in the Vineyard

Matthew 19: 27 - 20: 1 -16

#### Teaching aim

To show that we do not merit salvation but we depend on the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Memory verse

... now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation. 2Cor. 6:2

#### Activities

- Under 8s Activity Sheet "The Parables of Jesus of Jesus - 1".
- Over 8s Activity Sheet "The Parables of Jesus - 2".

#### Resources

##### Music

- JP 86 I am trusting you,  
Lord Jesus
- JP 50 Give me oil in my  
lamp, keep me  
burning

#### Prayer points

- Thank God that:
- Salvation is free.
- Pray for:
- Those who work for Jesus.
  - Those who have not yet answered God's call to trust in Him.

#### Setting the scene

Jesus had just told the rich young man he lacked one thing and that was to sell what he had and give to the poor. The young man went away very sad for he was very rich. At this point Jesus said that it was difficult for a rich person to enter heaven. Peter asked what they would get since they had left all to follow Jesus. After telling Peter what he would get, Jesus told this parable.

#### The Workers and their wages

There were two categories of workers in the vineyard, those who agreed to work all day for a denarius (a normal day's wage for a labourer) and those who had no contract but depended on the generosity of their employer. Was the employer fair to those who toiled all day?

Let the children give their answers (this can be done by filling in the Activity Sheet "The Parables of Jesus - 1" and then give the following points:

- the denarius was a day's wage. It was sufficient money to get the worker all he needed for himself and his family.
- the first workers had agreed to work all day for the denarius.
- those who were hired later in the day also needed the money to pay for food for themselves and their families.
- those who were hired later in the day were not lazy for, in those days, you had to wait each morning for someone to hire you.

Was the employer too good to those who only worked for one hour?

- the householder had a right to do what he wanted with his money as long as he paid the first people what they had agreed.

#### The Lesson of the Parable

Make sure the children understand the following facts

- The house holder paid each of the workers a denarius i.e. a full day's wage and, therefore, all were cared for fully.

- We cannot earn salvation no matter how long and hard we work, we depend solely on the Lord Jesus Christ
- Everyone needs the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour
- Salvation is by grace alone, it is never merited
- No one deserves or needs grace any more than any other
- We are saved by grace but, afterwards, we work for the Lord Jesus Christ because we love Him and want to do all we can for Him

Why is it good to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ when we are young?

- It is good to be saved early in life so that we are sure of our salvation. If we wait, we may be saved at a later date, but we may miss out and be eternally lost.
- It is also good to be saved early in life so that we have our whole life to work for Jesus Who did so much for us.

Can you think of anyone in the Bible who was saved just before they died? - The thief on the cross.

What does this tell us about salvation? - We cannot earn it, we are saved by grace and grace alone.

#### Summing up

The man gave each of the workers the same wages. Those who worked all day received the normal day's wage. Those who started later in the day also received a full day's wage and this was due to the kindness of the employer.

The parable is about trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ. The person who comes to Jesus when they are old will be saved just as much as a person who comes to Jesus when they are young. The worker could only work when they were asked by the owner of the vineyard. In the same way we can only come to Jesus when He calls us. Make sure you trust in Jesus when He calls you for you may not get a chance later in life. The Bible teaches us in 2 Corinthians 6:2 ... now is the day of salvation.

# Workers in the Vineyard

In the Parable there are two kinds of workers - those who worked **all day** (12 hours) and those who only worked a part of the day (either 9 hours, 6 hours, 3 hours, or only 1 hour). They all received the same wages, a penny or denarius. Write below the thoughts that might have come into their heads when they received their wages.

Man who worked 12 hours \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Man who worked 9 hours \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Man who worked 6 hours \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Man who worked 3 hours \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Man who worked 1 hour \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Write in your own words what this parable teaches us.

---

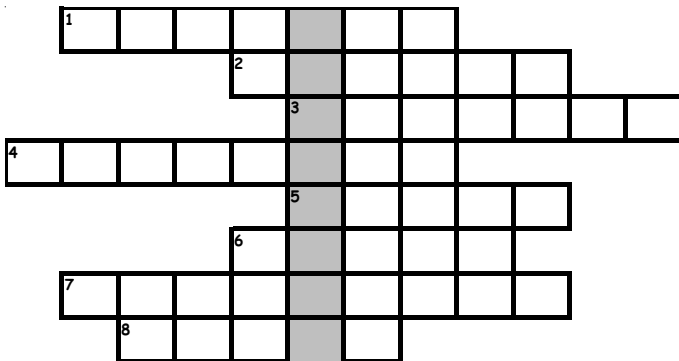
---

---

---

# Workers in the Vineyard

## Crossword Clues



- 1 & 2 The parable tells us what the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is like.
3. What the people were doing in the market - place.
4. Where the people were to work.
5. The landowner said he would pay the workers what was \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The workers were to be paid beginning at the last ones to be \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The man hired \_\_\_\_\_ for his vineyard.
8. Jesus said these would be last.

The letters in the shaded squares tell us how much a labourer was paid for a day's work.

What is it? \_\_\_\_\_

## True or False

Tick the  below with  if it is true and with 'X' if it is false.

- The workers who started early deserved more than the ones who started later.
- We are saved by the grace of God and not because we work longer and harder than other people.
- The landowner paid the ones he hired first the correct wages but was very kind to the others.
- We are to work for the Lord without looking for a reward.
- The last people to be hired were very lazy for they did nothing all day.
- The last people to be hired were not lazy for they had not been given the chance to work.