

March 22, 2020

What is Earned? Matthew 20:1-16 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 10 Num. 12

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In Matthew 20 we see the parable that Jesus teaches about the laborers in the vineyard. The parable tells us about a landowner that hires workers for his vineyard. He hires some at the beginning of the day and then continues to hire more throughout the day. At the end of the day he has a group of workers that have worked different amounts of time but he still pays them all a full days wage. The ones that were hired late in the day are generously paid the same full days wage. If we put ourselves in the shoes of the workers that worked all day and were paid the same it is easy to see why they might think this is unfair. However, they are getting paid exactly what they were told they would get paid. It is only when they compare their pay to others that they get upset. How is this account like the Kingdom of Heaven? Join us this week as we explore what each of us has earned.



“So the last shall be first, and the first last.”

Matthew 20:16

Laborers in the Vineyard

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²When he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the market place; ⁴and to those he said, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ And *so* they went. ⁵Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did the same thing. ⁶And about the eleventh *hour* he went out and found others standing *around*; and he said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day long?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’

⁸“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the

last *group* to the first.’ ⁹When those *hired* about the eleventh hour came, each one received a denarius. ¹⁰When those *hired* first came, they thought that they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹When they received it, they grumbled at the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last men have worked *only* one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the scorching heat of the day.’ ¹³But he answered and said to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what is yours and go, but I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. ¹⁵Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last shall be first, and the first last.”

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

8. How much were the laborers that worked all day paid? How much were the laborers that worked one hour paid?

9. Is it fair for those that worked longer to think they would get paid more?

10. Is the land owner taking advantage of the workers that worked all day?

11. Were the workers that only worked one hour being lazy?

12. Is it sinful for the workers that worked all day to envy the workers that only worked one hour?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

13. How is this account like the kingdom of heaven?

14. Which of the workers do you relate to, the one hour worker or the worker that has been there longer?

15. Why is it wrong for the workers that have been there all day to expect more? In relationship to the kingdom of heaven consider that our work does not grant us entry into heaven even if we have worked "all day".

16. In what ways is this parable similar to the prodigal son and his older brother? Luke 15:11-32

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes