

The Kingdom Equality

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² When he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the market place; ⁴ and to those he said, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' And so they went. ⁵ Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did the same thing.

⁶ And 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?' ⁷ They 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.' ⁹ When those hired about the eleventh hour came, each one received a denarius. ¹⁰ When those hired first came, they thought that they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius.

¹¹ When they received it, they grumbled at the landowner, ¹² saying, '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.' ¹³ But he answered and said to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ ~'Take what is yours and go, but I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. ¹⁵ ~'Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?' Matt 20:1-15

1. Entering the Kingdom is a GRACIOUS GIFT.
2. Understanding what things mean in this story:
 - A. The vineyard is the KINGDOM.
 - B. The landowner is GOD THE FATHER.
 - C. The foreman is JESUS.
 - D. The workers are CHRISTIANS.
 - E. The denarius is ETERNAL LIFE.
 - F. The workday is the Christians' LIFETIME of following Christ.
 - G. The evening is ETERNITY.
3. God sets the terms: Every person that puts their faith in Jesus, receives the SAME SALVATION.
4. Before receiving Christ, all are equally LOST; after receiving Christ, all are equally SAVED.
5. Communion reminds us of the ENTRY FEE paid by Jesus for us.