

THE CITADEL GLOBAL COMMUNITY CHURCH
SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES NUGGETS
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THE PARABLE OF THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD (2)

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2026: OUR YEAR OF FRUITFUL LABOUR | 2 Chronicles 15: 7

- It is only by God's grace and power that men can be transformed from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His dear Son.

- Sometimes, we believers do not fully understand what we ask God for. When we pray, "God, use me for Your glory; God, work through me; do great things through me;" we often forget that these prayers also require us to pay a price (**Matthew 20:20–24**).

- But for God's grace and the power that He has bestowed upon us, nobody can pay the price required to follow Jesus. It takes grace, and grace alone to do so.

- Eternal life is to know God through Jesus Christ whom He sent. It is a kind of knowledge through which we are able to see things and evaluate them accurately from God's perspective (**John 17:1–3**).

- Eternal life is the consciousness of the life of God in us, making it possible for us to discern between right and wrong (**John 17:1–3**).

- Eternal life is the life that enables us to understand that there is a higher law of grace that transcends the law of sin and death.

- It is eternal life that makes it possible for us to know that we can live beyond sickness and disease. That is eternal life.

- Eternal life is a knowledge we must come into and continually live by, for it is through this life that we are able to walk in and exercise the things God has made available to us *(***John 17:3, Romans 8:2***)* **.**

- Eternal life is a knowledge of God, the ways of God, and the life of God. It is a knowledge that brings us into alignment with God's thinking, so that we begin to operate on the same

wavelength as He does. It is the understanding that you and I are not meant to be poor. It is a knowledge.

- Eternal life is not something we can merely quote from the head; it is experiential. That is why eternal life is not something we can desire on a whim and expect to fall into our lap. It is found only in Christ. If you do not believe in Jesus Christ, you cannot have eternal life (**John 3:16; 17:3, 1 John 5:11-12**).

- What Jesus offered the rich young ruler was not simply to know the law of God, but to know the God behind the law. Because he knew only the law of God, he never truly knew the God of the law (**Matthew 19:16–30**).

- It is in following the Lord that we begin to partake of the life that Jesus Christ makes available to all who come to Him (**Matthew 19:16–30**).

- The kingdom of God does not operate according to human transactional value, social status, or earned privilege; rather, it operates on the basis of radical grace and divine sovereignty (**Matthew 19:30**).

- This last statement of Jesus in **Matthew 19:30** became the foundation for the parable of the workers in the vineyard, through which He revealed that the kingdom of heaven does not operate according to human reasoning, merit, or earthly standards, but according to God's grace and sovereignty (**Matthew 20:1–16**).

- Through this parable, Jesus seeks to help His disciples understand how differently God's kingdom operates from the systems of this world, revealing both the nature of God's call and the attitude expected of His servants concerning service and reward (**Matthew 20:1–16**).

- In this parable, the landowner represents God, the rightful Owner and sovereign Lord of

the whole earth and all its inhabitants. Everything belongs to Him, and He has the authority to call, direct, and reward His servants according to His will (**Matthew 20:1; Psalm 24:1**).

- The labourers hired at different hours of the day represent believers whom God calls into His harvest field at different stages of life and at different moments in His redemptive work on earth. Yet, though their calling may come at different times, they all share in the privilege of serving the same Lord (**Matthew 9:35–38, John 4:35–38, Luke 10:1–2**).

- The vineyard is frequently used in Scripture to symbolise God's people, Israel. In this particular parable, however, it represents the sphere of God's redemptive activity and His ongoing mission on the face of the earth, into which He calls His people to labour (**Isaiah 5:1–7, Jeremiah 2:21, Psalm 80:8–16**).

- The denarius was a Roman coin and the customary daily wage for labourers, sufficient to provide for their family's daily needs. This highlights the landowner's generosity and fairness toward his workers. In this parable, the denarius symbolises God's reward or blessing given to those who serve in His vineyard (**Matthew 20:2, 9–10**).

- Lessons from the parable: Redemption begins with God. Before the foundation of the world, He had already prepared a plan for man's recovery. The story of redemption is not man searching for God, but God pursuing man (**Jeremiah 35:15, Revelation 13:8**).

- Nobody comes to Jesus unless God draws them. The conviction that you are a sinner in need of Christ is itself the work of God's mercy. Therefore, we cannot claim any credit for our salvation; it is entirely a work of grace from beginning to end (**John 6:44, Ephesians 2:8–9, Titus 3:5**).

- Another lesson from the landowner is his personal involvement in hiring labourers. This reflects God's active role in calling, raising, and sending workers into His harvest field. God is still seeking and commissioning labourers for His kingdom work (**Mark 3:13–14, Acts 2:46–47**)

- We must be like our Father in heaven, approaching the work He has called each of us to with earnest heed, urgency, persistence, and diligence. As we go about our daily vocations, we must never become lazy or sluggish concerning the work of God, but remain fervent and faithful in serving Him (**Romans 12:11, TPT**).

- Another lesson from the landowner is his fairness and justice in agreeing on a standard living wage with the first set of labourers. He did not exploit them or offer less than what was fair for their labour. In the same way, God is righteous and just in all His dealings with His people (**Matthew 20:2, Psalm 89:14**).

- God's expectation for us, as business owners, CEOs, and employers of labour, whether in the public sector or the private sector, is that we deal fairly and justly with those in our employment. We are not to exploit workers but to ensure that their labour is rewarded rightly and honourably (**Deuteronomy 24:14–15**).

- The equal reward given to the final-hour workers reveals the wonder of God's grace. His blessings are not based on human merit or length of service, but on His sovereign goodness and generosity (**Matthew 20:9–15**).

- Herein lies the focal point of this parable: God is able to do what man naturally cannot do and would not do. His ways are higher than our ways, and His grace transcends human calculations of fairness, merit, and reward (**Matthew 20:1–16, Isaiah 55:8–9**).

- Grace can be a leveller. It entered the house of Jesse, passed over seven sons, and rested upon the eighth, a shepherd boy. Grace took him from the sheepfold and elevated him to the throne of Israel, demonstrating its power to raise the unlikely and accomplish what human merit never could (**1 Samuel 16:1–13, Psalm 78:70–72**).

- It is only grace that can take a beggar from the dung hill and set him among princes. Grace accomplishes what human ability, status, and merit never can, raising men from obscurity to places of honour and significance before God *(***1 Samuel 2:8, Psalm 113:7–8***)*.

- The landowner's payment of the labourers reveals God's sovereign grace. Eternal life is given equally to all who belong to Him, not on the basis of merit, but according to the abundance of His goodness and mercy (**Matthew 20:8–16**).

- Grace is a leveller. Salvation is freely given to all who believe, irrespective of when they come to the faith, for it is received by grace, not earned by merit. The Apostle Paul himself testified that all he became was by the grace of God (**1 Corinthians 15:8–10**).

- **Lessons from the Hired Labourers:** The first labourers were concerned about reward, reflecting Peter's question in **Matthew 19:27**. In contrast, those who understand grace serve God out of devotion rather than personal gain, trusting Him for the reward He has prepared for His faithful servants (**Matthew 19:27–29**).

- Having a transactional mindset can easily produce an entitlement mentality, where believers measure their service against that of others and assume they deserve greater rewards because they have laboured longer, despite God's grace being extended equally to all *(***Matthew 20:11–15***)*.

- Unlike the first labourers, those hired later trusted the landowner to give them what was right. Their faith rested in his character rather than a negotiated agreement. Likewise, believers are called to trust that God will always do what is just and right (**Matthew 20:4–7**).

- This set of hired labourers demonstrated faith in the character of the landowner, trusting him to give them what was just and fair for their labour rather than negotiating their own terms *(**Matthew 20:4–7**)*.

- We can rest assured that He who called us is faithful. He is just and righteous, and He will reward every labour done in His name with perfect justice and righteousness. Our responsibility is to serve Him faithfully, trusting Him to do what is right *(**Matthew 20:4, Hebrews 6:10**)*.

- The equal reward in the parable illustrates the grace of eternal life, which is given equally to all who believe, whether they come early or late. Yet, Scripture teaches that while salvation is the same for all, rewards will vary according to each believer's labour and faithfulness (**1 Corinthians 3:9–15**).

- We must not only be eager to engage in the work of God, but we must also be careful how we do it. Faithfulness, obedience, and the right motive in service matter deeply to God, for it is not only our work that He evaluates, but also how that work is done *(**1 Corinthians 3:10–15**)*.

- We must urgently and faithfully carry out the tasks entrusted to us by the One who sent us. The night is coming when no one can work, and our time for labour is limited. Therefore, we must make the most of every opportunity to serve while it is still day (**John 9:4**).

- The labourers hired later were found idle in the marketplace.

"As workers in God's vineyard, we are called to cultivate humility, obedience, and gratitude (**Luke 17:7–10**). We serve God not with a sense of entitlement, but with the understanding that serving Him is both our duty and our privilege. Whatever reward we receive comes not from merit, but from His grace."

The deeper lesson is that apart from the Master's purpose, even a busy life can be idle in heaven's sight. Until a person is brought into God's redemptive purpose, their efforts may be active, but they lack eternal significance (**Matthew 20:3–7**).

- If what we do is not ultimately connected to the service of God, then regardless of our occupation, position, or achievements, it amounts to idle motion from heaven's perspective. Whether at home, in business, or in public service, it is working for God that gives our lives and labour lasting significance and meaning (**Matthew 20:10–12**).

- These people represent those who evaluate reward based on visible service, years of labour, and personal sacrifice. They celebrate grace when it benefits them, but regard it as unfair when it is extended to others. Such a response reveals a heart that still thinks in terms of merit rather than grace (**Matthew 20:11–15**).

- As workers in God's vineyard, we are called to cultivate humility, obedience, and gratitude (**Luke 17:7–10**). We serve God not with a sense of entitlement, but with the understanding that serving Him is both our duty and our privilege. Whatever reward we receive comes not from merit, but from His grace.



PRAYER POINTS

1. Father, grant us the grace to surrender to Your will, obey Your word, and fulfil Your purpose for our lives.

2. Lord, surround us with Your protection, sustain us by Your grace, and transform our homes, marriages, and children.

3. Father, help us serve You faithfully, build with enduring materials, and remain steadfast in our divine assignments.

4. Lord, empower us to act with integrity, pursue justice, show compassion, and discharge our responsibilities diligently.

5. Father, let Your word illuminate our hearts, transform our lives, and enable us to live pleasing to You until the end, in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.