

THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST - SERVING OTHERS

MATHEW 20 – HARVEST WORKERS IN THE FIELDS OF EARTH

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. ⁵ Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.'

We all have a job to do in God's Kingdom... all are without excuse, there is something for everyone regardless of physical limitations.

⁸ "So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.' ⁹ And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. ¹⁰ But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. ¹¹ And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.' ¹³ But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what is yours and go your way. 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 my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

- Notice, evening here – so we work while its day – back then at night they did not have the means like we do with electricity and such – so for today, we should be mindful to work day and night for the Lord Jesus.
- Did you notice who is paid by the Lord first? He said to call all the laborers and give them their wages – and to begin paying those who came last, first.
- The last to arrive to work – paid first then those who had been working the longest came and were paid the same amount – Don't you just love how our Father operates and shakes things up in order to reveal our true hearts and the hearts of others?
- Those who work for the Kingdom of Heaven with a complaint in their hearts – is who this whole parable is about... as an example of how not to be. Especially when complaining against how the Lord is providing... look what they complained about – those who worked not as long as them, but were MADE EQUAL to those who worked all day and were burdened and hot – drained.
- The owner said – We made an agreement and I kept my word to you and paid you accordingly – so take what is yours and go away – I desire to give to the last the same I have given to you.
- And here's the clincher – the owner can do as He wishes with His own and in so doing He reveals those who are evil because He is good and just and gives by His own design.

- They were evil because they were twisted – not looking to receive the Lord’s reward, but in their hearts it was owed to them... this is the exact spirit of entitlement inflicting many in the church today and just as the Lord promised here, the last who do not demand what they are owed but instead appreciate all that is given freely receiving with gratitude that which is freely given– will be chosen and will be receive the reward. All are called... few chosen... those chosen are clothed with humility, humble with a grateful heart.

This spirit of entitlement is causing many to be inflicted way more than what would naturally be necessary. This name it claim it prideful arrogance and needing proof of your faith and declarations is not of the Lord at all. The Word tells us that it is those who believe without seeing are the most blessed. To be so faithful to Jesus without seeing one manifestation of His touch, without witnessing one healing or miracle or results based faith and still believe? Wow... now that’s amazing and deep rooted faith. Anyone can believe what they have been a witness to, but to believer in things hoped for and unseen before they appear, requires more... it comes with a blessing of intimacy and trust unlike no other. And if you want to go even deeper with Him, can you praise Him when you do not get what you have claimed or prayed to be in existence?

I think that is our highest calling, to be content in plenty and in want – to be so focused and centric on the Lord as our all in all... that He becomes our payment and reward, unmatched by Earthly treasures. Where all demands and requirements leave our hearts and He is enough. The chosen are just that, chosen... why? They placed themselves last, surrendered to Him and just like Jesus they pray.... If it be Your will Father take this cup from me, but if not, not my will but Yours be done Father.

And just like in the parable we read today – sure the Lord has many, many labors out there in the World today, many who are profiting at this moment for their labors, some even steal to attain that wealth or trick people for gain – but listen... not all who labor among us that we know are sons and daughters – those who are chosen from among the called. And even more are idle and refuse to even do work for the Lord...

John 15

¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

Friends = family

In order to be counted as friends/family – you must fall in love with Jesus. Love is the defining marker of a changed heart and there is so much more to this, it is really easy to discern who does and doesn’t contain His love if you are in love with Him – but for those who are blind by the plank of ego, this whole message will confound them – and remember, people judge those things which they do not have knowledge of.

Talk about pride and entitlement to elevate oneself... let’s keep reading -

¹⁷ Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, ¹⁸ “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief

priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, ¹⁹ and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again."

Greatness Is Serving

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.

²¹ And He said to her, "What do you wish?"

She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."

²² But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, ²³ and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

They said to Him, "We are able." (HE WAS SPEAKING OF WHAT HE WAS TO SUFFER – THE CUP OF SUFFERING)

²³ So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, ²⁴ and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared by My Father."

²⁴ And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. ²⁵ But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

- *This cup of suffering/trembling is one most are not willing to share in and partake of and if you do so, you will be mocked often and chastised much from those who do not comprehend what Jesus has asked of you and you said yes. Especially from the religious ones – they will look often to you as a leper or having little faith. When you say yes to Jesus in such a way, you are saying no to everyone and everything else and agreeing to whether the cup passes from you or whether you must drink of it – May the Father's Name be glorified and His will be done through His will carried forth in your life. This is the baptism of surrender, its costly and almost no one will understand it unless they too have suffered through the purifying fire of release self-will.*
- *Do you see how the hearts of the mother and two sons were revealed here? The desired to rule and reign over desiring Jesus... this too is something that is rampant in the church today. I don't know about you, but I have absolutely no desire to rule or reign over anybody – preferring to lay at Jesus's feet – my greatest desire is that my love is so pure – He can receive from me, not only pour into me.*

- *Unfortunately, we at times resemble the disciples who after hearing what these people were asking were very displeased. I must admit I feel like that at times too – I mean the gall of people with this entitlement mentality make me a little crazy at times – Here’s what they do... They take their rules and knowledge and try to rule over you with it to exercise their authority in your life – so things go according to their plans, not the Lord’s. This group too, has not fallen in love with Jesus yet. They can be so focused on prosperity in the natural flesh – their souls are perishing in the process. The Bible calls them “twice dead” – they will be plucked up in due time.*
- *This scripture is comforting to see that Jesus comforted His disciples saying... don’t let this enter into your group, you are called to serve, not be served and when you love Jesus and belong to Him, He is who you abide in and portray – He suffered on the cross, wrecking the minds of the religious as what king in their imaginations would for the sake of peasants die willing in such a horrific and unbecoming way?*
- *Listen, I deal with these people sometimes and they are embarrassed by us and they also don’t know what to do with us, because we trust our lives and what comes, suffering and pain or victory in the end – we just cling tight to the Lord the whole way through.*
- *Be like Jesus – not others and...*

Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. (laying down our lives for the sake of others)

AND LASTLY... SPIRITUAL PRIDE AND BLINDNESS

²⁹ Now as they went out of Jericho, a **great multitude followed Him.** ³⁰ And behold, **two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!”**

³¹ Then the **multitude warned them that they should be quiet;** but **they cried out all the more,** saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!”

³² So **Jesus stood still and called them, and said, “What do you want Me to do for you?”**

³³ They said to Him, **“Lord, that our eyes may be opened.”** ³⁴ So **Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.**

- *Well there goes forbidding people to cry and to seek Jesus for help when you are broken and cannot see what you are facing in fear and frozen and unable to move... And people around you are telling you to be quiet... So you cry all the more, feeling more alone than ever, pleading with Jesus in tears for His mercy. Can you feel me on this one?*
- *I find it interesting here what people did and what Jesus did and it clearly was not the same... This is exactly one of the thousands reasons I love Jesus so very much and why only He fits perfectly in my life...*

The multitude warned them to be quiet or else.

And Jesus, our Jesus... stops still in His tracks, called out to them and said – What do you want me to do for you? I am so excited I am gonna turn this table upside down right now!!!

- *They asked for their eyes to be opened, they cried, people told them to hush – warning them to get it together and then JESUS STOPPED IN HIS TRACKS – boom! Get this – they wanted their eyes opened in order to follow HIM – THIS IS HUGE, if you can hear me!*
- *Sometimes we don't get the healing do we? Could it be the healing is delayed because we want it for reasons other than following Jesus? Maybe for show, proof of our faith, to make our lives easier, out of fear, to go back in the world and sin, etc... whatever the case may be.*

KEY POINT... CRY OUT TO JESUS IN YOUR TIME OF NEED, tell Him what you desire He do for you and He having great compassion will hear and give you spiritual eyesight to see the purposed trial you are in, the growth of your faith in the process and see His hand upon you every step of the way.

I just shared with you these examples of when the least by the measurement of people, were actually the first to Jesus.

I just loved this study so much as a reminder to myself that I best weigh in a whole lot less in the growth journey of others and to plant and sow seeds, maybe water occasionally but realize only the Father can give the increase. What we discount as importance to Him, is the very thing He sees are greatest in His Kingdom.

He ignores religious repetitive prayers and goes immediately to the loud repetitive cries of the blind... That's our Father, He's so awesome and wonderful and mighty – isn't He?