

S – Scripture

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

3 “About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ 5 So they went.

“He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. 6 About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

7 “ ‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

8 “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

9 “The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. 10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. 11 When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 12 ‘These men who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

13 “But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

16 “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

O – Observations

What do you notice? What is interesting? What is context? What questions does it raise?

Some Observations to consider:

a. *How does this parable further answer Peter’s question: (Matthew 19:27-30)*

²⁷ Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”

²⁸ Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

b. *What do these words say about the situation:*

- a. *Grumble*
- b. *Equal*
- c. *Unfair*
- d. *Envious*
- e. *Generous*

c. *What does Jesus mean: “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”*

A – Applications

How does this apply to you? What do you need to confess? Do? Change?

Some Applications to consider:

- a. *What causes you to be envious of God’s generosity?*
- b. *How can I better rejoice in God’s grace when I see it given?*
- c. *What personal application can I draw from Jesus conclusion: “The last shall be first and the first shall be last.”*

P – Prayer

Pray that the seed (the Scripture you just studied) falls on good soil in your heart, so that it will take root and produce fruit. **Praise** God for His attributes revealed in the passage. **Confess** any sin that has come to light during this time of studying.

Thank Him for His Word and His care. And **ask** the Holy Spirit to continue growing you into a disciple of Jesus.