

THE PARABLE of THE REWARD of DISCIPLESHIP

Matthew 19:27-30

Matthew 19:13-14 Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put [*his*] hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. **14** But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Parable of the Rich Young Ruler

Matthew 19:15-22 And he laid [*his*] hands on them, and departed thence. **16** And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? **17** And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? [*there is*] none good but one, [*that is*], God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. **18** He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, **19** Honour thy father and [*thy*] mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. **20** The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? **21** Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go [*and*] sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come [*and*] follow me. **22** But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

Mark says and Jesus looking upon him loved him This Jesus would not have done if He was a hypocrite.

Jesus stated the some of the 10 commandments recorded on the second table of stone. Then He added “thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself” which is a summary of the law. Will a Rich young man give up all for Christ?

Jesus did not want one of His disciples to be separated from the others by great wealth. God requires every rich or poor disciple to surrender all to him. He does not required owners of property to sell all they have. But he does require that they use what they had to the honor and glory to God.

Matthew 19:23-26 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. **24** And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. **25** When his disciples heard [*it*], they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? **26** But Jesus beheld [*them*], and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Mark explains who all this rich man is by saying cf:

Mark 10:24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

The proverb used to express the greatest improbability.

The Camel was the largest animal owned and used by the Jews.

The figure used here is very vivid and emphatic.

It represents the largest animal trying to go through the smallest opening.

Matthew 19:27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

Peter contrasts himself with the rich young ruler. If he had to give up all to follow Jesus in order to inherit eternal life. The Apostles had forsaken all for some time and had been following Him for over two years.

***We have forsaken all* What is the reward for a lifetime of discipleship?**

Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

The word regeneration has given commentators much trouble.

The Greek word is only used in reference to our Baptism in conversion cf.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

There are two possible meanings: one refers to the future resurrection of all men. According to this view the day of judgment and recompense will come at that time.

The other view is the regeneration belongs to the period between Pentacost 30 AD and the second coming of Christ. This is the time of the Church and the new birth when all men shall be in Christ a new creature or a new creation.

During this period the son of man sits on the throne of His glory at the right hand of God. cf:

Acts 2:30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

Mark 16:19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

The apostles are not promised thrones of Glory, but simply thrones. The idea is that the apostles are judges. During their lives they arranged the new Testament laws and practices while they were on the Earth. And now by their inspired writings they govern the members of the church. This meaning makes use of the word regeneration as Titus 3:5 does.

Matthew 19:29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

To inherit is to receive from an ancestor and applies to one that has a claim and expectation of something in the future.

The expectation of receiving eternal life is to be heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ by faith and obedience

(A) It just doesn't get any better than: you will *inherit eternal life!*

It's a *hundredfold* better than anything you have ever seen with your eyes, heard about with your ears or imagined in your heart.

I Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Matthew 19:30 But many [*that are*] first shall be last; and the last [*shall be*] first.

What JESUS has accomplished in His life, death, burial and resurrection –

The Gospel – would be for all who are *In Christ* – so first or last is irrelevant.

It is in this context of V:27-30 that Jesus teaches the following Parable:

THE PARABLE of THE LABORERS IN THE VINEYARD

Matthew 20:1-16

Matthew 20:1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man [*that is*] an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.

The disciples who became apostles were expecting great honors in the Kingdom of Heaven because they were the first to be called from among the Jews.

The Jews were then expecting exclusive honors in the Kingdom because they were Abraham's seed.

- (A) *The kingdom of Heaven (the Church of Christ) is like***
- (B) *a man is JESUS***

Matthew 13:37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

- (C) We have a divine teacher.**

John 6:44-45 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 6:45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Hebrews 1:1-2 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Hebrew 8:8-12 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: 8:9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the

Lord. 8:10 For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 8:11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

(D) This Divine Teacher calls all who come to GOD'S vineyard.

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

I John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

(E) A householder is the owner of the field or vineyard. Israel was the vineyard of God cf:

Isaiah 5:7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts *is* the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

(F) In every age (hour), it is HE who calls and teaches in these *last days* which is the whole Christian age.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

Hebrews 1:1-3 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 1:3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

II Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

II Timothy 4:1-2 I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

(G) *The morning* - sunup – 6:00 A.M.

Matthew 20:2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

The Jews divided the day into 12 equal parts, both Day and Night were then divided into 4 parts each.

***A penny* – a day's wages.**

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord

Matthew 20:3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

***The third hour* – 9:00 A.M. It's still early in life. Come to the vineyard.**

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Matthew 20:4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way.

Matthew 20:5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise.

(A) *The sixth hour* – 12:00 – If it's noon of your life, the invitation is open. Come to the vineyard.

Ezekiel 18:31 Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

(B) *The ninth hour* – 3:00 P.M. – If $\frac{3}{4}$ of your life is gone, come to the vineyard.

Isaiah 1:18-19 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. **1:19** If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

Matthew 20:6-7 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? **7** They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, [*that*] shall ye receive.

***The eleventh hour* – 5:00 p.m. - If it's the last hour of your life, it's not too late to hear the invitation. Come to the vineyard!**

II Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Matthew 20:8-9 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them [*their*] hire, beginning from the last unto the first.

9 And when they came that [*were hired*] about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.

Leviticus 19:13 Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob *him*: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning.

A proclamation of grace which is the unmerited love of GOD.

Ephesians 2:4-10 **2:4** But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, **2:5** Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) **2:6** And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: **2:7** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. **2:8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: **2:9** Not of works, lest any man should boast. **2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus

Matthew 20:10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

JESUS is very clear – The wages are the same – *everlasting life*.

Matthew 19:29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Matthew 20:11-12 And when they had received [*it*], they murmured against the goodman of the house, 12 Saying, These last have wrought [*but*] one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.

(A) How do you feel about one who has been a rounder until late in life getting the very same reward as you?

(B) Christians often carry the short comings of the world into their service for Christ. They are continuing looking for shorter hours and bigger pay, and regardless of the importance of the word, quit when the clock when the clock strikes six. Like Peter men are always looking for their rights instead of their duties.

(C) Have you *murmured* against the good man of the house?

Matthew 20:13-15 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? 14 Take [*that*] thine [*is*], and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. 15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

Envy is spoken of a dwelling in the eye and giving it a malignant power of

Deuteronomy 15:9 Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee.

Proverbs 28:2 For the transgression of a land many *are* the princes thereof: but by a man of understanding *and* knowledge the state *thereof* shall be prolonged.

(A) Companionship with JESUS is the only compensation for spending all day - all your life – in service with the LORD in the vineyard. ...
and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

(B) Is companionship with JESUS enough, or *Is thine eye evil?*

(C) JESUS thinks HE did *right*.

(D) Happy is man who is content with heaven's wages.

Matthew 20:4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way.

Matthew 20:7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, *that* shall ye receive.

What do you think?

Matthew 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

God exercises mercy towards those had dis-advantage equal to others. The laborers were all equal in that each was ready to work when called. The eleventh hour men responded at the first opportunity.

(A) It is hard to believe that GOD loves us in spite of what we have done.

Romans 3:21-26 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 3:22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 3:25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 3:26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

(B) Others find it an affront that GOD does not love them because of what they have done! cf:

Matthew 20:11-12 And when they had received *it*, they murmured against the goodman of the house, 12 Saying, These last have wrought *but* one hour, and

thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.

(C) The called represents all who hear the gospel call. “whosoever will let him come ...”

The chosen the Greek word represents choice or excellent. And is almost equal the word perfect.

These are the disciples who excel in devoted service to the Lord.

Many are called to do the work, but few excel in the work and are perfect.

Matthew 20:17-19 And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, 18 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, 19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify *him*; and the third day he shall rise again.

Jerusalem is the place were for ages typical sacrifices had taken place in the temple predicting the real sacrifice with was now to be made once for the sins of the world.

I John 2:1-2 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [*the sins of*] the whole world.