

TITLE AND NUMBER: 151. The workers in the vineyard



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Matthew 20: 9-15

'The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So, when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. "These 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."

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

LOOKING FURTHER: Matthew 20: 1-16, Luke 6:38

What does this Bible passage tell us?

This passage tells us about God's generosity which far exceeds our expectations.

Thinking about the different people in this story, first let us consider those who grumbled. They had worked all day in the heat for the same pay as those who had just been hired. Then let us think about those who had been waiting around aimlessly all day, feeling sad and worrying about how to feed their children. What a relief it must have been to get hired at last. Finally, let's consider the landowner who had promised each the same amount of money. He had to cope with all that grumbling.

Jesus compares this vineyard to God's Kingdom. A place where all are welcome and are treated equally, where all are offered God's forgiveness, love and mercy. God's generosity encourages us to be generous to others; both through practical actions and by showing generosity in our attitudes towards them.

This passage can also challenge us - especially if we feel hard done by and want to grumble.

Whether we are young or old, leaders or followers, we are all valued equally in God's eyes.

This is echoed by the words of Jesus 'Give, and it will be given to you... For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.'

Reflections:

- Who do you identify with in this Bible reading? Why?
- Give thanks to God that we are all valued by Him.
- How can you value others equally this week?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

