

A STORY ABOUT . . . MOTIVATION

Matthew 20:1-16

I. The Utility of the Story

II. The Interpretive Challenge of the Story

- A. Parables were given during the dispensation of _____ and must be understood in the _____ of the law. (Gal 4:4)
- B. Parables generally have _____ central theme or teaching and should not be _____ than intended by the master teacher.
- C. Parables were given in a _____ and their interpretation must be _____ in that context.

III. The Occasion of the Story

- A. The Broad Context of the Story
- B. The Immediate Context of the Story (Mat. 19:13-29)
 1. Having just illustrated the requirement for _____ with two examples, little children (vs. 13-15) and the rich young ruler (vs. 16-26), Christ shifts to teaching about _____. (Mat. 19:28-29)
 2. Christ's promise of rewards is immediately followed by a _____ (many who are first will be last – Mat. 19:30), which he will _____ with the following parable (Mat. 20:1-16).

IV. The Characters in the Story

- A. The landowner who hires the servants represents _____ (v. 1.)
- B. We have laborers called early in the morning who represent _____ and the _____ (v. 1,2.)
- C. We have other laborers who are called later in the day representing other _____ who will have varying lengths of _____ to Christ (vs. 3 - 7.)
- D. We have an end to the day and a promised wage which represents the _____ of Christ and the believer's _____ (v. 8.)
 1. All _____ will stand before the Judgement Seat of Christ to have their post salvation life _____ by Christ. (2 Cor. 5:9-10)
 2. The Judgement Seat of Christ will not be a judgement related to _____ as everyone at this judgment will be _____; it will determine _____ that will be taken into the kingdom. (John 5:24, 1 Cor. 3:13-15)
 3. The Judgement Seat of Christ will take place after the _____ and before Christ's _____ to Earth to establish the Millennial Kingdom. (Luke 14:14, 1 Thes. 4:17, Rev. 19:7-8)

V. The Progress of the Story (v. 24-27)

- A. A landowner hires laborers in the _____ to work all day in the vineyard in exchange for a _____. (Mat. 20:1-2)
- B. Additional workers are hired at _____-_____ intervals and at the very _____ hour. (Mat. 20:3-7)
- C. There is an end of the day and the provision of the _____. (Mat. 20:8)
- D. The workers hired at the eleventh hour are paid one _____, even though they only worked the last hour of the day. (Mat 20:9)
- E. The laborers who worked the longest _____ more, but they _____ the same wage, one Denarius. (Mat. 20:10)
- F. The laborers who worked the longest _____ to receiving the same wage. (Mat. 20:11,12)
- G. The landowner rebukes the earliest laborers for _____ and defends the _____ of his payment. (Mat. 20:13-16)

VI. The Application of the Story

- A. This story does not teach:
 - 1. This story does not teach that _____ has anything to do with our _____. (Rom. 3:23, 6:23, Rev. 15:20, Eph. 2:8,9, Rom. 4:5, 2 Cor. 5:12)
 - 2. This story does not teach that _____ believer will receive the same _____. (1 Cor. 3:13-15, Mat. 5:12, Luke 19)
- B. This story does teach:
 - 1. Our motivation for service should be based on the _____ of the Lord, not on our own estimation of the _____ of our service.
 - 2. Our work should not be motivated by what we can _____ in return.
 - 3. We can _____ the Lord's evaluation of our service and _____ the resulting reward in His gracious hands.

How can you apply this passage today?