



Matthew 20:1-16

Context, context, context!

The Parable that Jesus shares in the text that we're studying this evening is all part of the conversation that began back in chapter 19 where the Rich Young Ruler asked Jesus...

"Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

Followed by the disciples stunned response to Jesus' commentary about the path to salvation...

"Who then can be saved?"

And finally, Peter's question...

"See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?"

So as you read the Parable in Matthew 20:1-16 from your Bible keep in mind the context in which the Parable was given.

Also, it's important to understand that in the Parable Jesus describes a Landowner who is looking for Laborers to help bring in the harvest.

With all that in mind (context, context, context) read the Parable and answer the inductive questions.

Observations & Discussion

1. How did the Rich Young Ruler, the disciples, and the Jewish people in the 1st Century AD believe that a person could be saved?

2. What does Jesus say is the primary subject of this parable?

3. Before we can interpret the parable it would be helpful to try to figure out what the symbols mean. What do you think each of these represent?

Who does the Landowner represent?

What does the Marketplace represent?

What does the Vineyard represent?

Who do the Laborers represent?

What do the Wages represent?

4. How much money did the Landowner agree to pay the first Laborers who were hired early in the morning?

5. What did the Landowner promise to pay the other Laborers who were hired later in the day?

6. In what order did the Landowner pay the Laborers? Sound familiar? Check out Matthew 19:30 & 20:16.

7. How much did the Landowner pay each Laborer? Was the Landowner unfair, or generous?

8. What does the attitude of the first hires toward the Landowner reveal about their motives for service?

9. Putting it all together what are the lessons that Jesus was teaching the disciples, and us, about the Kingdom of God?