

Recap of 6/12/16 (Matthew 19:27-20:16):

- 1. The message of this passage is that God works in surprising ways, reversing the world's values and giving good things to those who simply trust Him and don't bargain with Him.**
- 2. "It honors Christ to trust Him and serve Him, and not to bargain with Him." (Matthew Henry)**
- 3. Jesus teaches the parable of Matt. 20 to correct a bargaining/haggling spirit exhibited by the disciples (through Peter, their spokesman, "What's in it for us?" Matthew 19:27-30) and the "rich young ruler" (Matthew 19:16-26). The problem with this attitude is that it assumes that God need to be bribed to be good to us when the Scripture is clear that He is already good to us, gracious to us, generous with us.**
- 4. Believers today sometimes exhibit a similar bargaining/haggling attitude toward God ("if you give me this... " or "if you do this for me..." (job, promotion, health, etc.), then, "...I will do this for You" (serve, give, devote, etc.).**
- 5. In the parable the landowner goes out early in the morning (6:00 a.m.) to hire workers for his vineyard (the owner represents God the Father). They bargain with him, agree to wage and go out to work. He sends workers to his vineyard through-out the day (9,noon, 3 and 5) without a contract with just his promise to "pay you whatever is right." At the end of the day (6:00 p.m.) he has his foreman call all the workers in to be pay starting with the last ones hired. All workers get paid the same amount regardless of the time of day they started. The first group feels aggrieved because they were paid the same as all the others though they worked the entire day. The landowner reminds them that they contracted for that amount, and he was keeping the contract. His generosity with the others was his business.**
- 6. "If you ask God for a contract, you will only rob yourself, for He is generous with His workers. Be faithful to do your job and avoid watching the other workers, and He will deal with you generously." (Wiersbe)
"...God's great gifts are distributed, not because they are earned, but because He is gracious." (Carson)**
- 7. The lesson is: don't' bargain or haggle with God; serve God unreservedly, joyously, and lovingly, without thought of payment; and bargaining with God leads to disappointment, a critical spirit, and dissatisfaction with out lot.**