

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Study to show "The Way of True life,"

Bible Study Outline

TOPIC: The Parable of the Vineyard Workers

TEXT: *Matthew Chapter 19:16—Chapter 20:16*

Instructions: - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: You deserve the best." "Demand your rights." "I'm worth it." People today want everything that's coming to them, and they want it *not* Convinced of our own worth, we demand higher paying jobs, better working conditions and more fringe benefits. If these are denied, ^ feel we have been treated unfairly—and perhaps our feelings are justified. But what happens when we treat God like a divine employer? In this passage Jesus challenges our human concepts of fairness and worth He shows us that kingdom values are often the opposite of what we expect.

1. In your opinion, what factors should determine a person's wage or salary?
2. Before answering the young man's question (v. 16), Jesus asks a question of his own (v. 17). Why?
3. Jesus replies, "If you want to enter life, obey the commandments" (v. 17). If the New Testament teaches that we cannot be saved by obeying the law, then what does Jesus mean?
4. The young man implies that he has kept all ten commandments (v. 20). How do verses 21-22 make plain that he hasn't and expose his true spiritual condition?

What value would you see in following Jesus' model here as you present the gospel to non-Christians?

5. In biblical times people thought wealth was a reward for righteousness. How does Jesus challenge this view (vs. 23-26)? According to this passage, what hope do people have of being saved?

6. Read 20:1-16. How does this parable arise out of the discussion over the rich young man (see especially 19:27-30 and 20:16)? Imagine that you had "borne the burden of the work and the day" yet were paid the same as those who only worked an hour. How would you feel, and why?

7. How do the landowner's wage policies compare with contemporary management policies? How might modern union officials react to it?

8. Although the landowner's actions *seem* unfair, he claims the not (vs. 13-15). Why aren't they unfair?

9. The landlord clearly represents God. How do his values as seen in this parable conflict with society's values? Why is it so hard to live by these values of God?

10. How does this passage place our service to God in proper perspective?