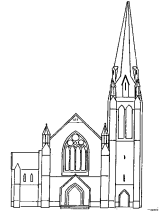




THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND NORTH PARISH CHURCH, GIRVAN Ayrshire.



**Interim Moderator - Dr James Anderson
Locum - Glenn Ronald**

May 2021 Newsletter

Dear friends, it is good to examine Jesus' parables to see how its message can be applied to our own lives today. One of the many memorable parables which Jesus spoke about was The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard contained in chapter 20 of Matthew's Gospel. I am sure we all remember this familiar story.

A landowner went out in the early morning to hire workers in his vineyard. As the parable says, this is just like the Kingdom of Heaven. A daily rate of one Denarius was agreed. Throughout the day the landowner found more workers to work in his vineyard. He went out at nine in the morning, twelve noon, three in the afternoon, and then five in the afternoon. The day finished at six in the evening. The landowner asked the foreman to call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the workers who were hired last and finishing with the workers who were hired first.

The last workers who were hired received one Denarius. Those workers who were hired at the beginning of the day expected to receive much more, but they also received one Denarius. Those workers who began their work much earlier in the morning questioned why they should receive the same as those workers who were hired at the end of the day.

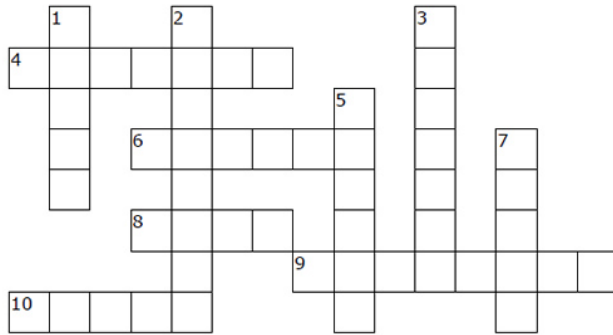
The landowner replied that he was not being unfair. He insisted that all the workmen agreed to work for one Denarius. If the landowner wanted to spend his money in this way, that was a matter for him. Surely it was a display of jealousy if you rejected the landowner's generosity. The parable finishes with the memorable line: "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The landowner redefines what is being discussed. It was not about the workers being exploited as they received exactly what the landowner had promised them. Instead it was about the generosity of the landlord towards the other workers. In this way the landlord's actions are just like the Kingdom of Heaven. God would retain His promises to Israel but then open up His Kingdom to everyone, so Gentiles would be welcomed too. If the Jewish nation focussed only on themselves they would feel slighted, but if they focussed on others they would welcome the generosity of God.

How can we apply this parable to our own lives today? Many people make sacrifices early on to be part of God's Kingdom, whilst others only convert to Christianity as their lives near an end. We might think here of the thief being crucified on the Cross alongside Jesus, whom Jesus told: "Today you will be with Me in paradise." Someone giving a lifetime of service to Christ might feel cheated by someone who comes to Christ later on. This however is not the right way of looking at the nature of faithfulness. When we recognise God's generous mercy we stop thinking about what is just, or fair. Instead, we think of God's amazing grace. This is the fact the workers who worked such a long day in the vineyard failed to realise, and hopefully we do not make this same mistake too. As Jesus said: "So the last will be first, and the first will be last". As the vaccine is prioritised towards the most vulnerable, and those most in need, we must remember this is a global pandemic. We must then never forget our brothers and sisters in distress overseas who desperately need our attention too.

Best wishes, Glenn

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

4. People who labor, usually for wages or a salary
6. The place where God lives
8. A period of time equal to sixty minutes
9. A place where grapes are grown
10. Pay received for working

DOWN

1. Coins or bills used to pay for something
2. To give or share freely with others
3. To gripe or complain
5. Not playing by the rules
7. Two things that are of the same value

HEAVEN	GRUMBLE	MONEY	WORKERS	VINEYARD
GENEROUS	HOUR	WAGES	UNFAIR	EQUAL



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Children's Worship Bulletin

Workers in the Vineyard

Matthew 20: 1-16

Word Search Puzzle

D V O M O N E Y Q K J F E Q L
 R Y H Q P G Y Y V V D B S K P
 E U G V H E H E A V E N U I H
 C S S Z Q N M J N R U N N N O
 E A V I N E Y A R D R S F G U
 I M I D T R I Z V E B M A D R
 V W R S X O U F N P D T I O V
 E O S P M U Q W M E E B R M C
 D R D G B S O K R R T Q E R A
 E K R Y P D M I T H V L U S W
 H E Y V N P H E G E B Q E A A
 O R C A V S Y I C M W G P K L
 N S L H N Q R G U B A R W J K
 U H G S Z L W R U W H I F E G
 G B Z Y G D G T X R E V Q B N

MONEY	HOUR	EQUAL	WORKERS	VINEYARD
LANDOWNER	HEAVEN	GRUMBLE	KINGDOM	GENEROUS
WAGES	HIRED	UNFAIR	RIGHT	RECEIVED

Your Church Name
Address
City

Coloring Page

Decoder Puzzle

PARABLE OF THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD (MATTHEW 20:1-16)



'These men 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.'
Matthew 20:12

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Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
T	O	J	Z	H	F	A	D	S	U	E	I	N	X	Y	V	L	W	Q	B	R	P	K	C	G	M

- 25-11-13-11-21-2-10-9 _____
- 18-2-21-23-11-21-9 _____
- 6-12-21-9-1 _____
- 10-13-6-7-12-21 _____
- 16-12-13-11-15-7-21-8 _____
- 26-2-13-11-15 _____
- 5-2-10-21 _____
- 25-21-10-26-20-17-11 _____
- 5-12-21-11-8 _____
- 17-7-9-1 _____

VINEYARD	UNFAIR	WORKERS	GRUMBLE	HIRED
LAST	GENEROUS	FIRST	MONEY	HOUR

