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Passage: Matthew 20:1 – 16 (Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard)

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*Who is the landowner? What are His characteristics?*

The landowner is God. He has shown generosity when He paid the workmen who worked last the same as the workmen who worked from the beginning. God has the right to do what He wants with His riches, i.e. He shows mercy to whom He wants to show mercy (Romans 9:18). He has sovereignty over everything.

*What does the vineyard represent?*

Vineyard usually indicates a place that belongs to God. It can be the church, ministry, family, workplace or social environment etc. It is a place to serve God, a place where Christians can work in His ministry.

*What about the marketplace, what does it represent?*

Marketplace usually indicates a place that does not have God, i.e. the world. The Christians are in the world, but not of the world (John 17:14 – 16).

*Who are the workmen? What does their work represent?*

The workmen are Christians. Their work represents the work of Christians in the ministry.

*What does the denarius represent?*

It represents the reward for working in the ministry. The reward is the same for all who worked; it is not measured by the amount of time worked, nor the position. God, not men, decides the reward. He is the one who decides what the right reward is.

*What does the day represent?*

Our spiritual life; our time on earth.

*Where is the kingdom of heaven?*

1. Here on earth, when we are reborn in the spirit, we enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:3-5)
2. Also in heaven

*What does evening represent?*

Evening represents the end of days, therefore, the morning represents the beginning of days.

*Why are those who were hired first received their pay last?*

The Jews are the first to be called in the beginning, the gentiles the last; the Jews are the last to be lifted up during the end times.

*What is the parable talking about?*

1. Calling people to become Christians
2. Calling Christians to the service

*Other thoughts:*

- Do not compare with others, but do what God has called us to do. It does not matter in the end how long or where you served, e.g. at the pulpit, or babysitting during the service, because everyone will be rewarded in the end. God wants all Christians to serve.
- Be prepared to be hired (to serve).

*Note:*

- We had also discussed that being hired may be an invitation for the salvation and the denarius would be eternal life.