

STUDYING THE BOOK OF MATTHEW
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 79 - The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard - Matthew 20:1-16

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

MT 20:1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. [2] He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

MT 20:3 "About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. [4] He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' [5] So they went.

"He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. [6] About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

MT 20:7 " 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

MT 20:8 "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'

MT 20:9 "The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. [10] So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. [11] When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. [12] '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.'

MT 20:13 "But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? [14] Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. [15] Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

MT 20:16 "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 79 - The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard - Matthew 20:1-16

950. To what situation did Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven? (20:1)
951. Who was the central character in this parable? (20:1)
952. What did the landowner go out and do? (20:1)
953. What wages were agreed upon by the landowner and his hired hands? (20:2)
954. In the parable, what happened at about 9:00 a.m.? (20:3)
955. What wage was agreed upon between the landowner and his workers? (20:4)
956. How many additional times did the landowner go out and hire workers? (20:5-6)
957. What explanation did the last group of workers give when asked why they were standing around doing nothing? (20:7)
958. What happened to the last group of workers? (20:7)
959. What did the landowner tell his foreman at the end of the day? (20:8)
960. What wages did the workers hired at the eleventh hour receive? (20:9)
961. What did the landowner pay to the men who worked all day? (20:10)
962. How did the workers respond to the landowner's system of payment? (20:11-12)
963. What rationale did the landowner give for his actions? (20:13-15)
964. In what ways does God's grace seem unfair?

Lesson 80 - Jesus Again Predicts His Death - Matthew 20:17-19

MT 20:17 Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, [18] "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death [19] and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 80 - Jesus Again Predicts His Death - Matthew 20:17-19

965. Who was traveling with Jesus at this time? (20:17)

966. Where was Christ going when He spoke of His death for the third time? Why? (20:17-18)
967. How can you tell that the disciples weren't sure what lay ahead? (20:17-18)
968. What title did Jesus use to refer to Himself? (20:18)
969. To whom did Jesus say He would be betrayed? (20:18)
970. What did Jesus say the chief priests and teachers of the law would ultimately do? (20:18)
971. Who did Jesus say would kill Him? (20:19)
972. What pain and shame did Jesus predict for Himself before the actual crucifixion? (20:19)
973. What did Jesus say would happen three days after His death? (20:19)
974. When would Jesus be raised from the dead? (20:19)
975. Why is the death of Christ significant to us?

Lesson 81 - A Mother's Request - Matthew 20:20-28

MT 20:20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

MT 20:21 "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

MT 20:22 "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

MT 20:23 Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

MT 20:24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. [25] Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. [26] Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, [27] and

whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- [28] just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 81 - A Mother's Request - Matthew 20:20-28

976. Who came to Jesus? Why? (20:20)
977. What favor did James and John's mother ask Jesus? (20:21)
978. How did Jesus respond to the request that James and John get special treatment? (20:22)
979. What curious question did Jesus ask James and John? (20:22)
980. How did James and John answer Jesus' cryptic question? (20:22)
981. What did Jesus promise James and John? (20:23)
982. What did Jesus refuse to promise James and John? (20:23)
983. According to Jesus, who will decide the positions of honor and authority in the kingdom of God? (20:23)
984. What was the reaction of the other disciples to this whole dialogue? (20:24)
985. Whose leadership style did Jesus condemn? (20:25)
986. How did Jesus define leadership? (20:26-27)
987. What did Jesus say was His mission in life? (20:28)
988. Who among the people in your church do you think will receive the greatest rewards in heaven?

Lesson 82 - Two Blind Men Receive Sight - Matthew 20:29-34

MT 20:29 As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. [30] Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

MT 20:31 The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

MT 20:32 Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

MT 20:33 "Lord," they answered, "we want our sight."

MT 20:34 Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 82 - Two Blind Men Receive Sight - Matthew 20:29-34

989. Where did the incident in this passage take place? (20:29)
990. Who was with Jesus? When? (20:29)
991. Who was following Jesus? When? (20:29)
992. Who happened to be sitting by the roadside when Jesus passed by? (20:30)
993. What did the people sitting by the roadside do when they heard Jesus was nearby? (20:30)
994. What was the crowd's reaction to the scene that developed? (20:31)
995. How did the crowd's words affect the two blind men? (20:31)
996. What did Jesus do in the midst of all the commotion? (20:32)
997. What did Jesus ask the two blind men? (20:32)
998. What request did the blind men make of Jesus? (20:33)
999. Why did Jesus grant the request made of Him? (20:34)
1000. How did the men who were healed show their gratitude? (20:34)
1001. What means has God given you for showing compassion in concrete gestures of kindness?
1002. How can you show love and kindness to a hurting individual?