

### (35) 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Laborers (Matt. 20:1-16)

1. The inversion of first & last frames the Kingdom of Heaven parable of the 11<sup>th</sup> hour laborers (Mt. 19:30; 20:16).
2. The early morning laborers agreed to do one day's work for one day's pay (Mt. 20:2).  
 δηνάριον *dēnariion* <sup>#1220</sup><sub>16x</sub> Lat. *denarius*. 6000 = 1 talent.
3. The third hour, sixth hour, & ninth hour laborers worked a  $\frac{3}{4}$  day,  $\frac{1}{2}$  day, &  $\frac{1}{4}$  day for "whatever is right" (Mt. 20:4,5).
  - a. These laborers were not party to the original covenant.
  - b. These laborers participate in labors alongside the original covenant laborers, but have no assurance beyond the land owner's standard of righteousness.
4. The eleventh hour laborers are uniquely questioned as to their idleness (Mt. 20:6).
  - a. Their claim to no one hiring is hard to swallow (Mt. 20:7a).
  - b. This single hour group is ordered into the vineyard without any reference to righteousness (Mt. 20:7b).
5. The foreman was ordered to pay the five groups of laborers in reverse order (Mt. 20:8).
  - a. The third hour, sixth hour, and ninth hour laborers offered no complaints for what the Lord's generosity to the eleventh hour laborers and expressed no dissatisfaction for the grace they themselves received.
  - b. The early morning laborers accused the Lord of being unrighteous even though the terms of their work covenant were never established on the basis of righteousness (Mt. 20:10-13).
6. Equality is abhorrent to those who view themselves superior (Mt. 20:12).
7. Exaltation of the lowly and bringing down the high and mighty is unthinkable to the sons of pride (Job 41:34), and this principle forms the core for understanding the angelic conflict (Lk. 1:52; Ps. 138:6; Prov. 3:34 LXX; Jas. 4:6; 1<sup>st</sup> Pet. 5:5).
8. Those who serve on the basis of works and merit are susceptible to envy (Mt. 27:18). Those who serve on the basis of faith and righteousness are open to the grace of God towards themselves and others (cp. Tit. 3:1-11).
  - a. Faith & righteousness in grace are portrayed (Tit. 3:1-2,8).
  - b. Works & merit in unbelief are also portrayed (Tit. 3:3,9-11).
9. This parable must be aligned with additional parables that clearly portray eternal inequality (cf. Mt. 25:14-30).
  - a. We must reject the either/or contrast.
  - b. We must embrace the both/and contrast.

LEPTON	1/128TH DENARIUS	40¢
QUADRANS	1/64TH DENARIUS	75¢
ASSARION	1/16TH DENARIUS	\$1.50
<b>DENARIUS</b>	<b>1 DENARIUS</b>	<b>\$25</b>
DIDRACHMA	2 DENARII	\$50
STATER	4 DENARII	\$100
SHEKEL	4 DENARII	\$100
MINA	100 DENARII	\$2,500
TALENT	6,000 DENARII	\$150,000