The Parable of the Vineyard Workers  
Matt. 20:1-16

Introduction:
A. Parable pictures a common scene in agricultural areas.
B. Parable illustrates three important aspects of kingdom of God.

Discussion:

I. The kingdom of God is WORK.
A. The landowner went to hire laborers (v.1) - not sitters, standers.
   1. We are justified by works and not faith only. (Jas. 2:14-26)
   2. We are to work out our salvation. (Phil. 2:12)
   3. We are abound in the Lord's work - not in vain. (1 Cor. 15:58)
   4. We see laborers commended by inspiration. (Rom. 16:12).
   5. We will be judge according to works. (Rev. 20:12,13).
   6. We will will rest from labors and works follow us. (Rev. 14:13).
B. The landowner was disturbed by idleness. (v.6)
   1. Idleness in general is condemned. (2 Thess. 3:6-15; 1 Tim. 5:13)
   2. Idleness in Lord's work condemned. (Mt. 25:26; Rom. 12:11; Heb. 6:12)

II. The kingdom of God is FAIR.
A. The landowner kept his promise to the workers. (v.13)
   1. We can count of God's promises. (2 Pet. 3:9).
   2. We can count of a crown if faithful. (2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 2:10)
B. The landowner promised to give what was right. (vv. 4,7)
   1. We need only trust that God will do this.
   2. We need not demand all the details or His judgment.
C. The landowner was unjustly accused on being unfair. (10-12).
   1. The workers forgot that landowner did not have to hire them.
   2. The workers forgot that they agreed to the price.
D. The workers forgot whose money was being distributed.
   1. It was his money to do as he pleased with it.
   2. It was not servants place to demand, expect or promise more than the landowner had promised.

III. The kingdom of God is MERCIFUL.
A. The landowner was willing give the unemployed work.
   1. The Lord is willing to make us his servants. (Rom. 6:17ff).
   2. The Lord is willing to reward our efforts. (Heb. 11:6).
B. The landowner was willing to go beyond mere merit.
   1. The Lord had given first hour workers (Jews) all had promised.
   2. The Lord gave latter hour people (gentiles) mercy.
   3. The equalized things in the end.
C. The landowner did not strictly adhere to so much work, so much pay.
   1. We all need mercy. (Rom. 3:21; Eph. 2:8,9).
   2. We all would be lost if got what we really deserved.
   3. We all can receive reward regardless to when we began.

Conclusion:
A. Whenever we receive invitation to work - act then - no assurance of another.
B. Whenever we accept the invitation to work - will be reward is remain faithful.
C. If the Lord gives another more than he has promised, I have no right to complain if he has given me what he has promised.