

Perspectives: A Changed Perspective

Week 2: Working in the Vineyard

Workers in the Vineyard

Matthew 20 is the Parable of the “Workers in the Vineyard.” Throughout a specific day, workers were hired to work in a landowners vineyard. In this parable each worker was paid the same wage regardless of the time they began working. In this scripture it was said that

The _____ shall be _____, and the _____ will be _____.”

Jesus in this parable is making it clear that those who labor in the vineyard should do it with all their might and the Lord will reward them, but not only on the _____ of their service, but on the _____ of their service.

Biblical Truths found in Genesis 1-2

- From the beginning of time, God _____.
- God looked back at his work and saw that it was _____. God worked in excellence.
- Some of God’s creations were self-sufficient and didn’t need to be tended to, like the sun, moon and the stars, while other creations needed to be worked. God needed someone to work the ground.
- God created man, in major part, to work and care for His creation, to work His land.
- God also ensured that man, Adam, would have the assistance he needed to perform the tasks. God created Eve.
- After God had finished the work He had been doing, He _____.

Reflections:

- We are created to work and do great works. We work to the point that we, and God, see our work is “good.”
- Approach all work as ministry work.
- Trust God to provide the help you need, when you need it, and how you need it.
- When it is time for you to be moved, God will move you.
- God is always on the job. Remember, He may rest, but He never retires.
- God wants to give you rest. Embrace it when it comes.

So, here’s this week’s challenge. Put your mind on your work, whatever that is for you. Grab your journal, write the situation that is challenging you. Begin jotting down the world’s point of view. Seek the bible for biblical truths and capture the biblical perspectives. Then, seek God for discernment into His perspective as you continue working in the vineyard.

Next week, our topic is “Freedom to Feel.”

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Working in the Vineyard – Biblical References

It's important to stand on biblical truths. Reflect on the scriptures below and ask God to give you discernment to fully understand and apply these truths to your life.

Matthew 20:1-16. 20 *“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius[a] for the day and sent them into his vineyard. 3 “About nine in the morning 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 noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. 6 About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ 7 “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ 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.’ 9 “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon 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 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.’ 13 “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the one 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?’ 16 “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”*

Genesis 1:1- 2:18

Genesis 1:31: 31 *God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.*

Genesis 2:2-3: 2 *By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.*