

## **The Parable of the Landowner and Laborers (Matthew 19:16-20:16)**

This parable is one of the more difficult parables of our Lord Jesus Christ

The business practices of this landowner would be considered eccentric

But if the landowner represents God, then his odd dealings make sense

Surface: landowner seems unjust & we sympathize with some laborers

There's much speculation as to what each character in the parable means

But key to understanding this parable: Jesus is addressing a heart attitude

### **I. Parable Key: Understanding what Jesus said before: context (ch 19)**

1-10 Jesus addresses divorce- Moses gave certificate: hardness of heart

vv. 13-15 Jesus blesses the children, the Kingdom belongs to them

vv. 21-22 Jesus turns the rich young ruler away "*if you want to be perfect*"

vv. 27 Then Peter answered... "See, we have left all & followed You. Therefore, what shall we have?"

Peter was earnest & we appreciate his heart, but the sentiment was sinful

Jesus says there will be honor to His faithful servants but He adds this: "But many *who are* first will be last, and the last first

### **III. The Landowner and His Laborers (20:1-16)**

The first laborers strike a deal with the landowner for one denarius (v.2)

The laborers 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> hour work for what the Master gave them

They trusted the master's generosity '*whatever is right I will give you*'(4,7)

The laborers who struck a deal with the master complained that's unfair

The master responded <sup>15</sup> Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?'