

THE ELEVENTH HOUR GOD

¹ “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 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.”

Matthew 20:1-16

- I. The story of five groups.
 - A. Those hired at 6 am with an agreed upon contract of one Denarius for a full days wage.
 - B. Those hired at 9 am without a contract and only a promise.
 - C. Those hired at 12 noon with the same deal.
 - D. Those hired at 3 pm with the same deal.
 - E. Those hired at 5 pm, the eleventh hour, without a contract or a promise.

II. Jesus flips the story.

- * They are all paid from the last to the first. The hearts of all men are exposed.

III. Four steps to trouble

- A. Observation – They saw others paid.
- B. Expectation – They assumed they would be paid more. (Here's where the distortion and deception enters.)
- C. Consternation – They couldn't believe what was happening.
- D. Detonation – They blew up, offended at God!

IV. The Eleventh hour God

- A. The Eleventh hour God flips the story and reveals motives.
- B. The Eleventh hour God is sovereign over all.
- C. The Eleventh hour God is just; no one will be underpaid.
- D. The Eleventh hour God is generous, so everyone will be surprised.
- E. The Eleventh hour God teaches that offense prevents blessing.
- F. The Eleventh hour God reveals if your gaze and glance is correct.
- G. The Eleventh hour God is not fair; he is gracious.