

Matthew 20!

The Laborers in the Vineyard

Matthew 20:1-16

- The Kingdom of heaven is like a householder...

Matthew 20:1-16

Deciphering the code of the Parable:

The householder is ___ the _____

The early laborers are the people of _____

The latter laborers are the _____

The Steward (foreman) is ___ the ___

Matthew 20:1-16

Deciphering the code of the Parable:

The householder is **God the Father**

The early laborers are the people of **Israel**

The latter laborers are the **Gentiles**

The Steward (foreman) is **God the Son**

Matthew 20:1-16

What is the message of this parable?

To those who heard it from Jesus, this parable warns Israel to prepare for a change in its covenant with God.

The Jews who had for so long experienced the joy of God's privileged relationship as well as born the heat of the worst persecutions in history - will now share the joy of salvation with the Gentiles.

Matthew 20:1-16

What is the message of this parable for today?

Salvation is a sovereign act of God who alone invites whomever he wills into his Vineyard.

Matthew 20:1-16

What is the message of this parable for today?

Salvation is a sovereign act of God who alone invites whomever he wills into his Vineyard.

God lavishes his promises on all who laborer in his Vineyard. (God is sovereign in his generosity)

Matthew 20:1-16

What is the message of this parable for today?

Salvation is a sovereign act of God who alone invites whomever he wills into his Vineyard.

God lavishes his promises on all who laborer in his Vineyard. (God is sovereign in his generosity)

Human beings are prone to the most petty of jealousies and rivalries.

Matthew 20:1-16

What is the message of this parable for today?

Salvation is a sovereign act of God who alone invites whomever he wills into his Vineyard.

God lavishes his promises on all who laborer in his Vineyard. (God is sovereign in his generosity)

Human beings are prone to the most petty of jealousies and rivalries.

God's delight in mankind allows no distinction between persons. (The real meaning of Last First / First Last.

Matthew 20:17-19

A Third Time Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

Compare to:

Matthew 16:21

Matthew 17:12, 22-23

See also Mk 10:32-34 and Lk 18:31-34

Matthew 20:17-19

Note again Jesus' use of the title Son of Man.

The phrase "son of man" appears over 100 times in the Old Testament, most often in Ezekiel. It is an expression of contrast between God and created beings. In other words, a son of man is infinitely inferior to the infinite God. Or, it contrasts the physical and visible sons of men with the spiritual and invisible inhabitants of heaven (angels).

See Daniel 7:13-14

Matthew 20:17-19

Jesus often calls himself the Son of Man. I believe we can identify two reasons.

1. It is a declaration of the Incarnation. The eternal Word of God has taken on human flesh and so becomes truly the Son of Man – Divinity takes on human.
2. It is also a declaration of God's sovereignty over salvation. The Passion and Death of Jesus is not a new revelation, it has been known by God since the foundation of the world. It has been known by the prophets of old. God is working his purpose out! The Ancient of Days (a name for God) has given authority to the Son of Man, who will now destroy the enemy of the Saints.

Matthew 20:17-19

Excurses: The incarnation. What does it really matter that Jesus was both Son of God and Son of Man?

- All human beings share the same nature. It is our nature which makes us human.
- By taking our nature into his Godhead, Jesus heals human nature.
- In order to heal all that ails humanity, Christ had to take all of humanity into the Divinity. Patristic saying, “What was not assumed was not healed.”
- Therefore, by becoming human and healing our nature, Christ exalts humanity to a higher estate than ever before – even

Matthew 20:20-28

The Request of the mother
of James and John

Matthew 20:20-28

What was the mother's request and what was wrong with it?

- a. That her two sons would sit beside him in his kingdom?

- b. Wrong? She did not know what she was asking?
 - 1) She thought she was asking for position of power for her sons
 - 2) She did not know that for her sons to "go with Jesus" they would have to "drink the same cup" in other words, suffer and die and contend with death.

Matthew 20:20-28

The two senses of Jesus' answer:

- 1) On the one hand, no one can share in the glory of Jesus because no one is truly able to drink his cup. What does it mean to drink his cup? Read Matthew 26:39. We can no more share Christ's glory than we can share his sacrifice. He alone must accomplish this.
- 2) Nevertheless, on the other hand, Christ calls us all to join in his suffering, and to do the difficult, tedious, painful and often thankless task of "working out salvation with fear and trembling."
Philippians 2:12-13

Matthew 20:20-28

“...to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.” verse 23

To whom has it been granted by the Father?

Matthew 20:20-28

Who sits at the right hand of Jesus?

The Blessed Virgin **Mary**, Mother of our Lord, blessed of God, Overcome by the Holy Ghost and greeted by the Holy Archangels.

See: 1 King 2:12,19 and Rev. 10

Matthew 20:20-28

Who sits at the left hand of Jesus?

We do not know!

Yet

In one sense, it is the Father himself .

In another sense, it could be John the Baptist.

In yet another sense, it is reserved for the goats, those under judgment.