

The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard

Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

“About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went.

“He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

“‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

“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.’

“The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius.”

What is a Parable?

Ervin Seale, “Learn to Live,” page 16.

“Thus, in every real parable, you have two stories: one is literal; the other is figurative. They lie right alongside each other, and one suggests the other. One is evident and obvious; the other is induced by thinking upon the first.”

How do we interpret a Parable in light of the Science of Mind?

- We examine the literal (the physical, outward meaning)
- We examine the metaphysical (the inward, figurative meaning)
- We examine the personal (how does it relate in my life)