

Vineyard Parable

Vineyard Parable

– 13th Story –

Jesus

There was once a landowner. He had a lot of land, and on that land, a very large vineyard. At the time of the harvest he needed workers to tend to the vineyard. So, he went out one morning to find workers he could hire for the day.

Land Owner

Excuse me gentlemen, but are you free to work today?

Laborers

We are. Yes. Indeed.

Land Owner

Very good, very good. Well, how would you like to come and work for me in my vineyard today?

Laborer 1

How long will we be working?

Land Owner

All day.

Laborer 2

How much will you pay us?

Land Owner

The usual daily wage.

Laborer 1

Well, there aren't any other jobs to choose from.

Laborer 2

Sure, we'll do it.

Land Owner

Oh good. Do you see the big hill with the big vineyard there?

Laborers

Yes.

Land Owner

That's it. Shall we?

Jesus

Three hours later, the land owner decided to go looking for more workers because his vineyard was very big, and there were few workers.

Land Owner

Pardon me, boys, but do you have need of a job today?

Workers

Yes sir.

Land Owner

Good. Well, go out to my vineyard and work for the rest of the day and you will receive fair payment for the work you have done.

Workers

Okay. That sounds great!

Jesus

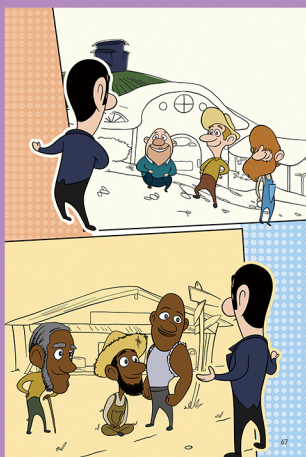
Another three hours went by, and the land owner again went looking for workers.

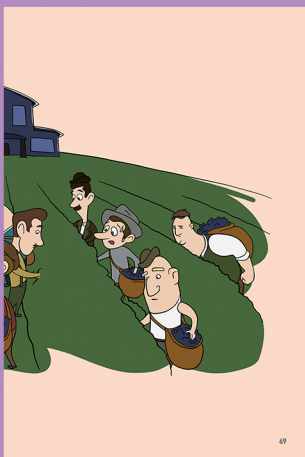
Land owner

You there, fellows. Would you like to earn some money today?

Fellows

Yes sir. That's why we're here.





- Land Owner** Wonderful. Well, go out to my vineyard, join the other workers there and at the end of the day, I'll pay you what is right for the work you did.
- Jesus** Now the landowner did this two more times. Any and all workers he saw when he went out, he offered the job of tending his vineyard.
- Land Owner** Hello there. Have you all been standing around here all day?
- Workers** Yes.
- Land Owner** Whatever for?
- Worker** There hasn't been anyone to hire us all day.
- Land Owner** Well, there is now! Go out to my vineyard. Join the other workers that are already there, and at the end of the day I will pay you for your work.
- Worker** Thank you sir.
- Jesus** The workers worked all day. At the end of the day, the land owner called his servant.
- Land Owner** Call in the labourers, and give to each man his wages. Pay the last workers I hired first.
- Servant** Yes, master.
- Jesus** Now the servant went to those that came last and paid them. But when the workers that came first saw this, they were frustrated.
- First workers** Hey! Wait a minute.. We were first. I think you meant to start with us.
- Servant** No. I've started where I was told to start.
- First workers** Why aren't you starting with us!?
- Jesus** The servant gave to the workers that arrived last a whole day's wage for their work. So that the workers that came first became excited and thought that since they had come earlier, they would receive more. So the servant went down the line and gave to each worker the same amount. When the servant had given the first workers their pay, they became angry with the land owner.
- First workers** Hey! What's the big idea!? We've been out here in the hot sun working all day long!
- Land owner** Yes? What is the problem?
- First worker** Well, come on! You gave to those guys the same amount that you gave us, and they only worked an hour!
- Land owner** Well, please do remember. I am doing nothing wrong by you. When I hired you this morning, did we not agree on a day's wage?



First workers

Yes, but-

Land Owner

Very well then. Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to pay the last worker the same as you and that is not against the law. Do not be angry because I am treating my workers kindly.

Jesus

This story is like the Kingdom of God. There, the last will be first, and the first will be last. For many are called, but few chosen.

“So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last.” Matthew 20:16 Nlrv