

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

CHARACTERS: 7

COSTUMES: Biblical

PROPS: Biblical

SETTING: Israel during the time of Jesus

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Matthew 20

JESUS: For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard.

OWNER: I will pay you a denarius for the day. Now go work in my vineyard.

WORKER 1: Okay.

WORKER 2: We will work twelve hours for one denarius.

JESUS: About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing.

OWNER: You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.

WORKER 3: Alright. Hi Ho! Hi Ho. It is off to work I go.

JESUS: 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.

OWNER: Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?"

WORKER 4: Because no one has hired us.

OWNER: You also go and work in my vineyard.

WORKER 5: There is but one hour left to work, but we will gladly go work.

JESUS: When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman...

OWNER: Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.

JESUS: The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius.

FOREMAN: Here is your denarius.

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WORKER 4 & 5: (*happy*) Thank you.

FOREMAN: (*to WORKER 3*) And here is your denarius. (*To WORKERS 1 & 2*) And a denarius for you.

WORKER 1: A denarius?! Only one?

WORKER 2: Did you see that? He paid the people who only worked an hour the same as us!

WORKER 1: And I worked for 12 hours! ¹

WORKER 2 : I thought we'd get paid more since we worked longer.

WORKER 1: Hey, these men who were hired last worked only one hour.

WORKER 2: You have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.

OWNER: Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?"

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