

COMMENTARY

MATTHEW 20:

vs. 1-16:

Jesus now tells a parable that demonstrates how those that come at a later time and work faithfully will receive the same reward as those that came at the start. The workman were hired at the start of the day, the 3rd, 6th, 9th and 11th hour, out of 12. When it comes time for payment, all receive equal, even though those who were hired first expected more, they did not receive it. Neither will those who serve God all of their lives, receive a greater reward than those who serve faithfully during the latter part of their life.

vs. 17-19:

Jesus once again tried to prepare His disciple on His way to Jerusalem. He told them again about His being betrayed, being condemned to death, and then mocked, flogged and crucified by Gentiles. He also told them that on the 3rd day He would be resurrected.

vs. 20-28:

The mother of James and John (sons of Zebedee) approached Jesus and asked that her sons be given the 2 most prominent and powerful positions in Jesus' Kingdom. Jesus asks them if they can drink from the cup that He would (meaning persecution and even death), they not understanding reply, "Yes". Jesus then prophesies that they will (be persecuted and die), but that it is the Father's decision.

The other 10 disciples become upset. Jesus reminds them that in His Kingdom, those who are great or first, will be those who act as servants and slaves. They will not seek their own desires, but the desire of others, following His example. Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve, even to the point of dying for all mankind that their sins might be forgiven.

vs. 29-34:

Jesus, his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, when 2 blind men, sitting by the road, asked Jesus to have mercy on them. They would not cease crying out, even though others tried to dissuade them. Jesus asked them what they wanted, and having compassion, touched their eyes and restored their sight.

STUDY GUIDE

MATTHEW 20:

1. How much did the landowner agree to pay the men?
2. At what other times did he go out and hire workers?
3. How much did the last workers receive?
4. How did those who were hired first, respond?
5. How did the landowner respond?
6. What did Jesus say would happen in Jerusalem?
7. What did the mother of Zebedees children ask of Jesus?
8. How did the 10 respond towards the 2?
9. How does one become great or first?
10. What did the Son of Man, come to do?
11. Where was Jesus leaving, when He encountered 2 blind men?
12. What is the first thing that verse 34 says about Jesus?

BONUS:

1. What do verses 1-16 teach us?
2. Do Christians ever act like the mother of Zebedees sons, did? Explain.
3. What does verse 34, mean to you?