

Working in the Vineyard

For a moment, use your imagination. You have been hired to do a job. It's not a big job and shouldn't take you more than a day. The person who hires you tells you they are going to pay you \$100. After you are there for a while, a few more people show up and start doing a similar job. Later on, even more people show up and begin working. When your day is over, you go to the person who hired you to get paid.

How much are you expecting to get paid?

How much should the other groups of people be paid?

Your employer steps to the group that arrived last and gives them \$100. When they continue down the line, they give the group that showed up in the middle \$100. Then the employer comes to you and hands you \$100.

How are you feeling as everyone gets paid the same?

Were you expecting to receive more than \$100?

Do you feel cheated?

Jesus tells a similar story in the Book of Matthew (Matthew 20:1-16). In the story that he tells, the workers hired at the beginning of the day were angry with the employer and Jesus reminds them that they were not ever wronged, but the employer was being generous with those who did not work the full day.

What do you think this parable is about?

Just before this, Jesus talks about getting into the Kingdom of God. Given the context, does this change what you think about the parable?