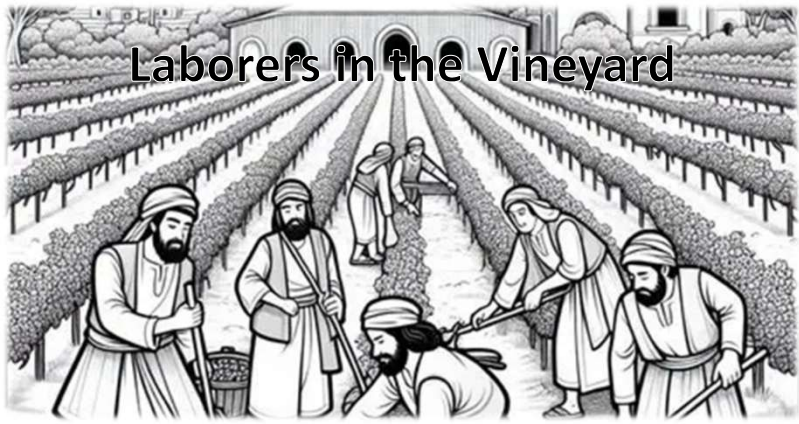


## Laborers in the Vineyard



### Matthew 20 ESV

*1 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ 5 So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same.”*

1

2

### Matthew 20 ESV

*6 “And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ 7 They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ 8 And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ 9 And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.”*

### Matthew 20 ESV

*10 “Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. 11 And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 12 saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ”*

3

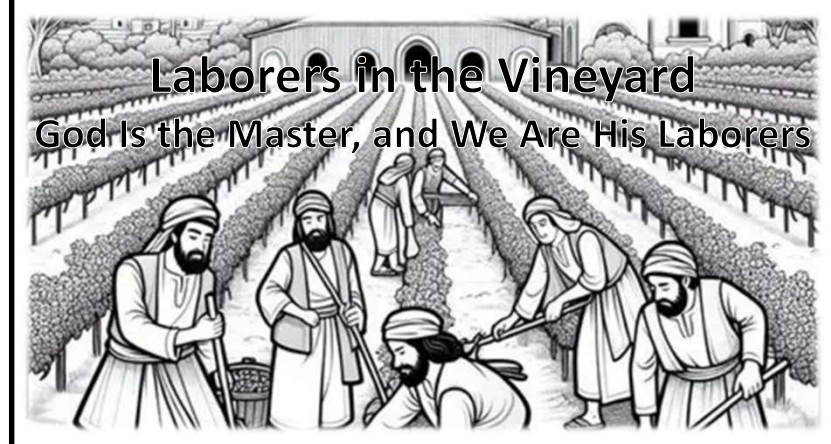
4

### Big Idea

The Master's grace is greater than our effort and, in His vineyard, every worker is invited, valued, and rewarded by His generosity, not by their performance.

5

### Laborers in the Vineyard God Is the Master, and We Are His Laborers



6

### God Is the Master, and We Are His Laborers

- God alone is Creator & Master & we are His creation ("There is creator and created... and it's His vineyard") - Our lives & work belong to Him.
- God selects laborers simply because He desires to, just as the master chose workers early in the morning; His calling is an act of grace, not merit.
- God's provision is seen in the agreed-upon denarius, a full day's wage, demonstrating that He faithfully provides exactly what His people need.

7

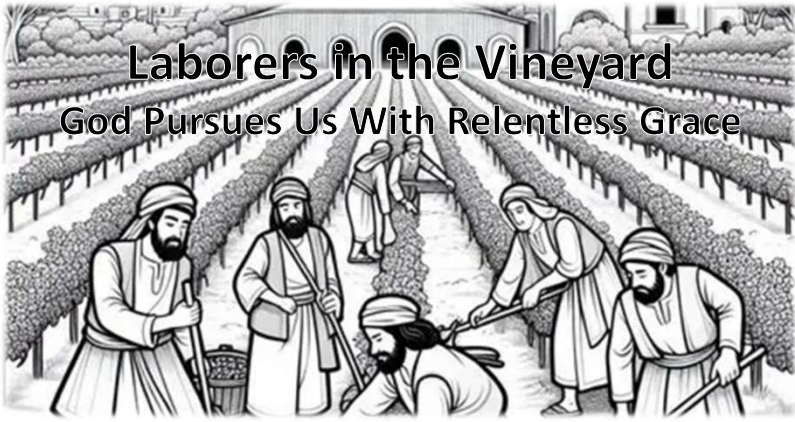
### God Is the Master, and We Are His Laborers

- God's invitation reveals that we cannot hire ourselves into His kingdom ("You can't save yourself... You must be invited") - Salvation is God's initiative.
- His ownership means that everything we possess (life, breath, family, abilities) is a "blood-bought grace gift from God," given not because we earned it but because He is generous.

8

## Laborers in the Vineyard

### God Pursues Us With Relentless Grace



9

### God Pursues Us With Relentless Grace

- Multiple invitations show that God continually seeks people at every stage of life, just as the master returned at 6, 9, 12, 3 & 5 – He is persistent in pursuing us.
- God's grace is always available ("It's not too late... Today is the day of salvation.")
- The 11th hour symbolizes God's willingness to welcome those who come to Him late in life - His grace is not limited by age or past choices.

10

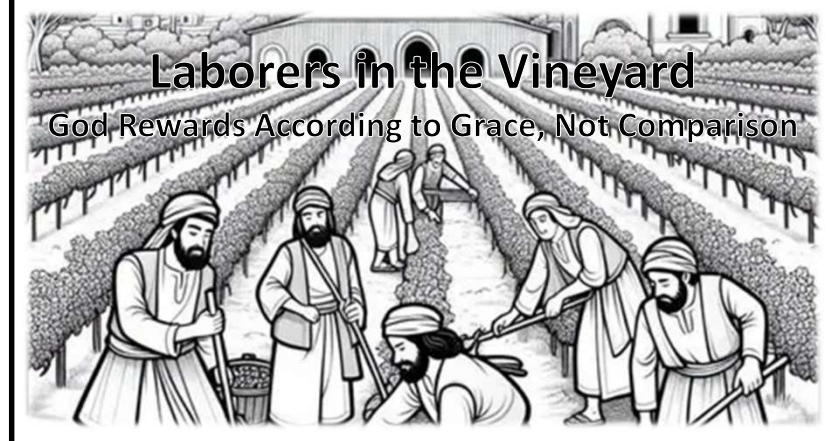
### God Pursues Us With Relentless Grace

- No matter our past, "there is more grace in Jesus than sin in you" – Jesus' forgiveness outweighs our failures.
- The cross shows grace & justice because it is the place where God's righteousness & mercy meet - The vertical beam represents justice & the horizontal beam represents grace.

11

## Laborers in the Vineyard

### God Rewards According to Grace, Not Comparison



12

### God Rewards According to Grace, Not Comparison

- The master gave each worker a denarius, showing that God's generosity is not based on hours worked but on His gracious character.
- The generosity of the master reminds us that the one-hour workers were not "lucky" but blessed, receiving more than they deserved because of the master's kindness.

13

### God Rewards According to Grace, Not Comparison

- Comparison creates grumbling because when the early workers compared themselves to others, they became resentful - Comparison steals joy & blinds us to God's goodness.
- We all live on a continuum between two attitudes - Entitlement always leads to dissatisfaction while gratitude leads to peace.

14

### God Rewards According to Grace, Not Comparison

- God evaluates us based on faithfulness, not results - God says, "Well done, good and faithful servant," not "fruitful servant."

15

### Practical Applications

- Rest in God's Ownership - You can rest knowing your life still belongs fully to God & He continues to care for you in every season.
- Whether you come to Jesus early or late, God's invitation is still open & He delights in receiving you.
- Release Comparison — Comparing your health, mobility, or family situation to others only steals joy; God calls you to gratitude instead.

16

### Practical Applications

- Every breath, every friend, every memory is a grace gift - celebrate what God has given rather than what He hasn't.
- You still have meaningful kingdom work: prayer, encouragement, wisdom, kindness & sharing your testimony.
- Choose Gratitude Daily — A daily practice of gratitude shifts your heart from "Why me?" to "Thank You, Lord," bringing peace & joy.

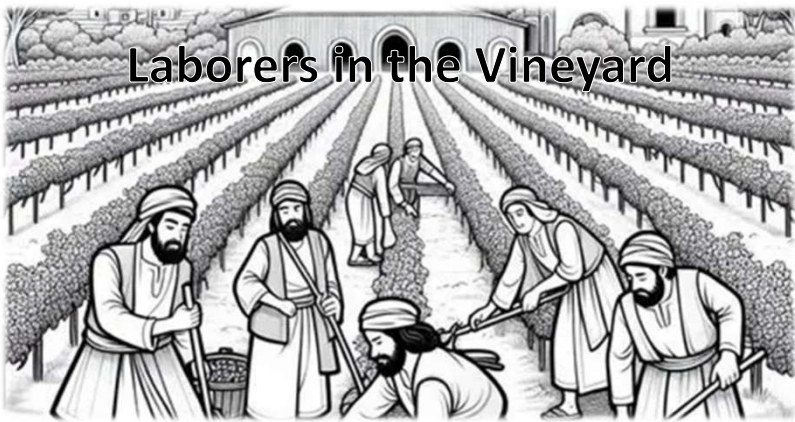
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### Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to you personally that God is the Master & we are His laborers?
- How does the idea of "It's not too late" encourage you at this stage of life?
- Why is God's grace better than fairness?
- In what ways does comparison show up in senior living & how can we resist it?
- What is one thing you can thank God for today?

18

### Laborers in the Vineyard



19