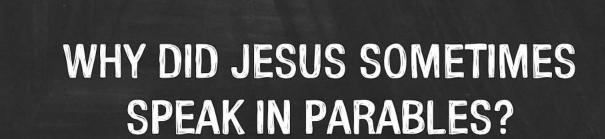




"All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables..." - Matt. 13:34a ESV











10THEN THE DISCIPLES CAME AND SAID TO HIM, "WHY DO YOU SPEAK TO THEM IN PARABLES?"



11AND HE ANSWERED THEM, "TO YOU IT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO KNOW THE SECRETS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, BUT TO THEM IT HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN.





12FOR TO THE ONE WHO HAS, MORE WILL BE GIVEN, AND HE WILL HAVE AN ABUNDANCE, BUT FROM THE ONE WHO HAS NOT, EVEN WHAT HE HAS WILL BE TAKEN AWAY.





13THIS IS WHY I SPEAK TO THEM IN PARABLES, BECAUSE SEEING THEY DO NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY DO NOT HEAR, NOR DO THEY UNDERSTAND.





14INDEED, IN THEIR CASE THE PROPHECY OF ISAIAH IS FULFILLED THAT SAYS:

""YOU WILL INDEED HEAR BUT NEVER UNDERSTAND, AND YOU WILL INDEED SEE BUT NEVER PERCEIVE."





15FOR THIS PEOPLE'S HEART HAS GROWN DULL, AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY CAN BARELY HEAR, AND THEIR EYES THEY HAVE CLOSED, LEST THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARSAND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND TURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.'





¹⁶BUT BLESSED ARE YOUR EYES, FOR THEY SEE, AND YOUR EARS, FOR THEY HEAR.







17FOR TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, MANY PROPHETS AND RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE LONGED TO SEE WHAT YOU SEE, AND DID NOT SEE IT, AND TO HEAR WHAT YOU HEAR, AND DID NOT HEAR IT.







JESUS SPOKE IN PARABLES TO REVEAL THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF PEOPLE'S HEARTS





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THAT'S NOT FAIR! MATTHEW 20:1-16



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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.





²AFTER AGREEING WITH THE LABORERS FOR A DENARIUS A DAY, HE SENT THEM INTO HIS VINEYARD.





³AND GOING OUT ABOUT THE THIRD HOUR HE SAW OTHERS STANDING IDLE IN THE MARKETPLACE,





4AND TO THEM HE SAID, 'YOU GO INTO THE VINEYARD TOO, AND WHATEVER IS RIGHT I WILL GIVE YOU.'





5SO THEY WENT. GOING OUT AGAIN ABOUT THE SIXTH HOUR AND THE NINTH HOUR, HE DID THE SAME.





6AND ABOUT THE ELEVENTH HOUR HE WENT OUT AND FOUND OTHERS STANDING. AND HE SAID TO THEM, 'WHY DO YOU STAND HERE IDLE ALL DAY?'





THEY SAID TO HIM, 'BECAUSE NO ONE HAS HIRED US.' HE SAID TO THEM, 'YOU GO INTO THE VINEYARD TOO.'





*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.'





9AND WHEN THOSE HIRED ABOUT THE ELEVENTH HOUR CAME, EACH OF THEM RECEIVED A DENARIUS.





10NOW WHEN THOSE HIRED FIRST CAME, THEY THOUGHT THEY WOULD RECEIVE MORE, BUT EACH OF THEM ALSO RECEIVED A DENARIUS.





11AND ON RECEIVING IT THEY GRUMBLED AT THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE,





12SAYING, '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.'







VERSES 13-16 TEACH US ABOUT GOD AND REVEAL SOME THINGS ABOUT OUR HEARTS



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13BUT HE REPLIED TO ONE OF THEM, 'FRIEND, I AM DOING YOU NO WRONG. DID YOU NOT AGREE WITH ME FOR A DENARIUS?





14TAKE WHAT BELONGS TO YOU AND GO. I CHOOSE TO GIVE TO THIS LAST WORKER AS I GIVE TO YOU.







GOD ALWAYS ACTS WITH INTEGRITY (VSS 13-14)





¹⁵AM I NOT ALLOWED TO DO WHAT I CHOOSE WITH WHAT BELONGS TO ME? ...







GOD CAN DO AS HE PLEASES (VS 15A)





15...OR DO YOU BEGRUDGE MY GENEROSITY?







GOD IS A MERCIFUL AND GENEROUS GOD (VS 15B)



X,

¹⁶SO THE LAST WILL BE FIRST, AND THE FIRST LAST."









THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT LIKE THE WORLD (VS 16)



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THAT'S NOT FAIR! MATTHEW 20:1-16



2006