

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

Matthew 20:1-16

November 2, 2008 Sunday pm.

I. FIRST, WHAT IS THE REASON JESUS TOLD THIS PARABLE?

- A. First, it had to do with Jesus' conversation with the rich young ruler—**19:16-22**.
- B. Second, it had to do with Jesus' conversation with his disciples—**19:23-24**.
 - 1. This prompted their question of who could be saved—**19:25-26**
 - 2. Peter asked a question about what is in it for them—**19:27**.
 - 3. Jesus' reply to Peter assured them and us and closed with a warning—**19:28-30**.
 - 4. The parable of the Laborer's in the Vineyard was told to explain Jesus' warning in **19:30 and also 20:16**.

II. NEXT, WHAT DOES THIS PARABLE TEACH US?

- A. The Parable Summarized—**20:1-15**.
- B. The meaning of this parable.
 - 1. Various interpretations...
 - a. O.T. saints and N.T. saints.
 - b. Jews and Gentiles.
 - 2. Probable meaning.
 - a. First workers represent the apostles and other early Christians.
 - b. The later workers represent those who respond to Jesus at later times.
- C. Lessons from this parable for us.
 - 1. What everyone receives from God will be more than fair—**v.13**.
 - 2. No one has the right to question God's grace—v.15a.
 - 3. No one should be envious of other Christians—**v.15b**.
 - 4. No one should serve for what they get out of it—**19:27**.
 - 5. We should respond to Jesus immediately and not wait—**20:6**.

CONCLUSION

- A. God calls each of us to be saved and to serve.
- B. We must respond to both calls and stop worrying about what other people do or get—**John 21:20-22**.
 - ²⁰ **Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?")**
 - ²¹ **When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"**
 - ²² **Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."**