



# From Called To Chosen

**"And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?" (Matthew 20:6).**

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"For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. 2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. 5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? 7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive. 8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. 9 And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. 10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. 11 And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, 12 Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. 13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? 14 Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. 15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? 16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen" (Matthew 20:1-16).

Speaking about the Kingdom of God, Jesus used an illustration of a householder and labourers to bring out the following salient points in His message to His audience, and to us as well:

- 1) The householder represents God, and the labourers, humanity. As the householder repeatedly went out to recruit labourers to work in his vineyard, so does God relentlessly call people to His service. Have you heard and responded to the call yet?
- 2) Even at the eleventh hour, when there was

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only an hour left for the harvest, He still went out recruiting so that everything could be harvested before the close of day. Similarly, God is relentlessly looking for people to harvest souls, even in the last minute before the return of Christ.

- 3) Each time He went out, he found different sets of people to enlist into the service. The people God calls today into His service may be different from those He called yesterday, but the service remain the same - harvest of souls into God's kingdom.
- 4) The householder's question in verse 6 **"Why stand ye here all the day idle?"** is a pertinent one for all of us to ponder. Their evasive response **"Because no man hath hired us"** is similar to what majority of passionless onlookers, who lack a sense of initiative and responsibility are still giving today. Had they used their senses, they could have seen people working in the vineyard and sought employment.
- 5) Reward time came. God always rewards His servants. Their rewards were based on what they agreed at their time of recruitment. Some thought it unfair to receive the same amount after working a whole day, as those enlisted in the last hour.
- 6) An interesting point here is that the householder started the payment with the latest employees, and used that to share a key message with all **"the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen"**. This message is poignant with meaning that **true spirituality and divine reward are not subject to age, history, rank or seniority** (Proverbs 3:5). Are you among the chosen like Moses, David, etc. or still remaining in the called category?