

#TargetPractice: What can we learn from the parable of the vineyard workers?

[God's Story: Parable of the Vineyard Workers](#)

Was this parable about getting paid for a job? Not really. It was an example to help His disciples to understand His grace and love.

In the parable, the man wanted to reward all of the workers for accepting his invitation to work, not just for how much work they could do for him. The same is true of God. God is the vineyard owner. He is going around looking for workers in His Kingdom. When someone accepts His invitation, they are forgiven and become a part of the Kingdom. Each person who accepts God's invitation is promised eternal life with God.

Some people accept God's invitation early in life (or early in the parable) and live their entire lives serving God. Oftentimes they face hardships because of their faith. Life is not always easy, but they serve God faithfully knowing there is a great reward ahead where there will be no hardships anymore. (heaven).

But not every person accepts God's invitation early in life (or early in the day in the parable). These people may even actively go against God during their lives, but later in life (late day in the parable) they discover God and His truth. They accept God's invitation but they may not have much life here on Earth left. These people will still receive the same reward as the others who have served God their entire lives.

This can sometimes upset those who devote their lives to God. (heaven)

Does this seem fair to you? Would it seem fair to you to work all day and get the same pay as those only working an hour? In our culture especially, no it wouldn't seem fair. But it is up to the owner to do with his money what he wants.

God looks for us to accept His invitation to receive forgiveness. He isn't just looking for only those who can work all their lives for Him. He is looking for every person's heart.

Just like what we learned today about the thief on the cross next to Jesus.

[The Story Of The Two Thieves](#)

He would not be able to do anything in his life to serve God. But God still loves him and accepts him into His kingdom.

It's never too late to ask God for forgiveness, but does that mean we should do whatever we want in order to "have fun" and just plan to have God forgive us before death? NO! That is a wrong attitude. God wants us to live our lives (our entire lives) accepting His grace, love, and

freedom (as we will talk more about next week). But He loves us, is merciful, and extends His grace to whoever is ready to accept Him...whenever that may be.

My question today is...will you accept Jesus's invitation for forgiveness like the thief on the cross we talked about today? Or will you be like the one who made fun of Jesus and turned Him away?

Will you accept while you are young and can live your life for God instead of trying to do things on your own?

I hope you react like the thief on the cross who accepted Jesus's invitation, but I also hope that, unlike the thief, you will accept the invitation while you are young. We are never guaranteed tomorrow.

prayer