

Matthew 20:1–16

16th Sunday after Pentecost — Proper 20, Year A

NRSVue	NIV	NET	NLT	NASB	CEB	The Message
1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 and he said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. 5 When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 6 And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing 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 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and going to the first.' 9 When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. 10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. 11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 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.' 13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to the last the same as I give to you. 15 <u>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?</u> 16 <u>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.</u>"	1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. 3 About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. 5 He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. 6 About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' 7 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' 8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard called his foreman and said, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' 9 The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. 10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. 11 But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 12 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' 13 But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 <u>Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?</u> 16 <u>"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."</u>	1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 And after agreeing with the workers for the standard wage, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 When it was about nine o'clock in the morning, he went out again and saw others standing around in the marketplace without work. 4 He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too, and I will give you whatever is right.' So they went. 5 When he went out again about noon and three o'clock that afternoon, he did the same thing. 6 And about five o'clock that afternoon he went out and found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why are you standing here all day without work?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You go and work in the vineyard too.' 8 When it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the workers and give them their pay, beginning with the last hired until the first.' 9 When those hired about five o'clock came, each received a full day's pay. 10 And when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each of them also received the standard wage. 11 When they received it, they began to complain against the landowner, 12 saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who bore the hardship and burning heat of the day.' 13 And the landowner replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am not treating you unfairly. Didn't you agree with me to work for the standard wage? 14 Take what is yours and go. But I want to give to those who were hired last the same as I gave to you. 15 <u>Am I not permitted to do what I want with what is mine? Or are you envious because I am generous?</u> 16 <u>So the last will be first, and the first last."</u>	1 "For the Kingdom of Heaven is like the owner of an estate who went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work. 3 "At nine o'clock in the morning he was passing through the marketplace and saw some people standing around doing nothing. 4 So he hired them, telling them he would pay them whatever was right at the end of the day. So they went to work in his vineyard. 5 At noon and again at three o'clock he did the same thing. 6 "At five o'clock that afternoon he was in town again and saw some more people standing around. He asked them, 'Why haven't you been working today?' 7 They replied, 'Because no one hired us.' The landowner told them, 'Then go on out and join the others in my vineyard.' 8 "That evening he told the foreman to call the workers in and pay them, beginning with the last workers first. 9 When those hired at five o'clock were paid, each received a full day's wage. 10 When those hired first came to get their pay, they assumed they would receive more than the others. But they, too, were paid a day's wage. 11 They protested, 12 'Those people worked only one hour, and yet you've paid them just as much as you paid us who worked all day in the scorching heat.' 13 "He answered one of them, 'Friend, I haven't been unfair! Didn't you agree to work all day for the usual wage? 14 Take your money and go. I wanted to pay this last worker the same as the others. 15 <u>Is it not my right to do as I please with my money? Should you be jealous because I am kind to others?</u> 16 <u>"So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last."</u>	1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a vineyard who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 When he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And he went out again about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the market place; 4 and to those he said, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will give you whatever is right.' So they went. 5 Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did the same thing. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' 8 "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, starting with the last group to the first.' 9 When those hired about the eleventh hour came, each one received a denarius. 10 And when those hired first came, they thought that they would receive more. And each of them also received a denarius. 11 And when they received it, they grumbled at the landowner, 12 saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the scorching heat of the day.' 13 But he answered and said to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what is yours and go; but I want to give to this last man the same as to you. 15 <u>Is it not lawful for me to do what I want with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?</u> 16 <u>"So the last shall be first, and the first last."</u>	1 "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who hired some day laborers early in the morning to work in his vineyard. 2 After he agreed to pay them the usual daily amount, he sent them into his vineyard to work. 3 Then he went out at nine in the morning and saw others standing around in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I'll pay you whatever is right.' 5 So they went. Again he went out around noon and three in the afternoon and did the same thing. 6 Then about five in the afternoon he went out and found others standing around. He said to them, 'Why are you just standing around here all day long doing nothing?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' 8 "When it was evening, the landowner said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and moving on finally to those hired first.' 9 When those hired at five in the afternoon came, each one received a denarius. 10 Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarius. 11 When they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 12 'These who were hired last worked one hour, and you made them equal to us who bore the burden of the day's work in the hot sun.' 13 "The landowner answered one of them, 'Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn't I agree to pay you a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to those who were hired last the same as I gave to you. 15 <u>Don't I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I'm generous?</u> 16 <u>So those who are last will be first and those who are first will be last."</u>	1-2 "God's kingdom is like an owner of a vineyard who went out early in the morning to hire workers. They agreed on a wage of a dollar a day, and went to work. 3-5 "Later, about nine o'clock, the owner saw some other men hanging around the town square unemployed. He made them the same offer. They went to work. At noon and again about three, he did the same thing. 6-7 "At five o'clock he went back and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why are you sitting around all day doing nothing?' They said, 'No one hired us.' He told them to go to work anyway, in his vineyard. 8-12 "When the day's work was over, the owner of the vineyard told his foreman to pay the workers, beginning with the last hired and ending with the first. Those hired at five o'clock came up and were each given a dollar. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more. But they got the same, each of them one dollar. They complained to the manager, 'These last workers put in only one easy hour, and you just paid them the same as us, who worked all day under a blazing sun.' 13-15 "He replied to the one speaking for the rest, 'Friend, I haven't cheated you. We agreed on the wage of a dollar, didn't we? So take it and go. I decided to give all the men the same wage, from those who worked one hour to those who worked all day. Is this a problem? <u>Is it against the law for me to do what I want with my own money? Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?</u>" 16 <u>"Here it is again, the Great Reversal: many of the last shall be first, and the first, last."</u>