

The Generous Landowner

(based on Matthew 20:1-16)

Once, a farmer owned a vineyard. One day, the farmer needed to hire some people to help him look after his vines. So he went out to the market very early to find some workers.

When the farmer arrived at the market, he quickly found some people who were looking for work.

“Come with me,” the farmer said. “I will give you one silver coin to work in my fields.”

The workers were glad to find work and went with the farmer right away.

I wonder, “What did they do in the vineyard?”

Later that morning, the farmer saw some other workers standing in the market. They were waiting to find jobs too. The farmer hired them to help in his vineyard.

Later in the afternoon, the farmer saw that other workers were waiting in the market, so he invited them to help in his vineyard as well.

Finally, when there were only a few hours left to work, the farmer noticed that there were still people waiting in the market.

“Why are you still standing here?” the farmer asked.

“Because no one has given us any work to do,” they answered.

“Come with me,” the farmer said. “I will give you some work to do.”

Even though it was the end of the day, the people were glad to have a few hours of work. They went to the vineyard right away.

When all the work was finished, the farmer called everyone together. It was time to pay the workers. The farmer gave each worker one silver coin.

The workers who had been hired at the start of the day were very upset.

I wonder, “Why were the workers who were hired at the start of the day upset?”

“It’s not fair!” they complained. “We worked hard all day. These others only worked for a few hours. We should get more money.”

The farmer shook his head. “My friends,” he explained, “I have not cheated you. You agreed to work for one silver coin, and that is what I paid you. It is my money and I want to pay these other workers as much as I paid you. They need the money as much as you do. Now everyone will have enough.”

I wonder, “How did each of the workers feel after listening to the farmer?”

All the workers looked at the money the farmer had given them. They took their money and went home. The farmer had been very generous.

