

The Messiah

a study of the Gospel according to Matthew / 20:1-16

“So the last will be _____, and the first will be _____.” (16)

How do we know if we are one of the last who will be one of the first?

We are one of the last who will be one of the first if ...

1. We find ourselves among the world’s _____.

“... 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?’ ‘*Because no one has hired us,*’ they answered. He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’” (1-7)

* ... think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards ... influential ... of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise ... the weak ... to shame the strong ... the lowly things ... the despised things ... the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him. It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God ... (1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

2. We work for the Lord with the purest of _____.

“... the owner ... said ... ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon ... received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, *they expected to receive more.* But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble ... ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour ... and you have made them equal to us ...’” (8-12)

* Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism. (Col 3:23-25)

3. We accept the fact that all rights belong to _____.

“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you ... Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. *Don’t I have the right to do what I want* with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’
So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” (13-16)

* ... who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? ... Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use? (Romans 9:20-21)

... Always give yourselves _____ to the work of the Lord,
because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Cor 15:58)

Sunday, October 27, 2024
10:30 am

Pleasant View Baptist Church
Foley, Alabama

