2020 09 20 Late-in-the-day Comers.

Exodus 16:2-15. Psalm 105:1-6,37-45.

Philippians 1:21:30. Matthew 20:1-16

A Quote: “God is eternal Spirit. God has always lived. God will live always. God knows no end, at either end. All time before there was time, and after the time-book is shut, is to God a passing present.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

Us; you and I individually, “because of God, we will know no end. We will live always because **the breath of God is our very being.” [[2]](#footnote-2)**

Let us have a look at how Gods priorities work out in living eternally in Gods Eternal Country.

Matthew 19:30 our Lord Jesus said

“Many first will be last *and* the last – first”

In that day as today there are the religious hierarchy – whose faith, at whatever level, may be a blazing light of love or to whom the business of the church is ‘a business’, a satisfaction of a need to control, or hide or whatever – they may have the power now but in the kingdom of the Lord Jesus the “widow who gave all that she had became the most blessed above and beyond the man who made a big show”[[3]](#footnote-3)

The quiet corner of prayer trumps the showy prayers on the street corners – although today we would not be admired but thought ‘strange’!

In the continuing walk and talk of Jesus with others, followers, enemies, children - the disciples started talking about their place in the coming kingdom of Jesus the Messiah – the earthly kingdom that is – at one stage the mother of two of the men asked on behalf of her sons that they might have the two highest positions[[4]](#footnote-4) e.g. maybe Minister for the Army or Treasurer!

Jesus told this story of the landowner who hired labourers for 1 to 12 hours work in the day and paid them all the same!

READ MATTHEW 20:1-16.

A factor in the background of this story and Jesus comments is the world view at that time of the Jewish people, that being that their nation would rule the world, basically as it had in King Solomon’s day.

The Lord Jesus is opening up the space to include ‘late commers’. The Jewish people were already accepting of converts from other nations coming into the faith and customs as having been granted – maybe – ‘refuge’ status? And any person who sort God was welcomed by God. Yet the gentile world was now to come into God Kingdom. The Jewish people had born the ‘heat’ of the past several thousand years as the people that God had called and built into a nation – starting with the faith of Abraham.

God had built a nation that His Son, could be born into: “Because God loved His creation so much, He sent His only begotten Son (the radiance of Himself[[5]](#footnote-5), in whom all the fullness of Diety dwells in bodily form[[6]](#footnote-6)) so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.”[[7]](#footnote-7)

“In him we have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.”[[8]](#footnote-8)

The behind the scene revealed in this story is the character of God Himself – the farmer knew that the base line for a labourer to live and care for his family was this amount and his care and compassion for others desired to provide for them – irrespective as to whether it was ‘fair’ to the other workers in human terms or not.

Gods care and grace were to all who came – as it is to the new group of believers from all nations –

WHO CAME TO BE CALLED *- CHRISTIANS?*

A commentary[[9]](#footnote-9) brings us the thought that shows:

1. The comfort of God – whenever we come to God; young or death bed, we are precious to God.
2. The tenderness of God.
3. The generosity of God.
4. “The supreme lesson of this parable – the whole work of the spirit or attitude in which our life in the Kingdom is lived. The servants in the parable are clearly divided into two classes. The first he came to an agreement with the farmer – they had a contract; “we will work, if you give us so much pay.”

Maybe the laws and promises recorded in the “Old Testament”?

1. But in the case of those who were brought later in the day, there is no word of a wage or a payment or a contract or an agreement; all they wanted was work, and they would willing leave the reward to the master.

The disciples were walking and talking about what they would get out of following Jesus.

Jesus told them this story of the landowner and the labourers.

The Christian lives, works for the joy of the working and the joy of serving God and their fellow humans and the gift that was given by God recorded in Genesis; “to tend the earth and care for it.”[[10]](#footnote-10)

“One thing we must see to whatever happens – live a life that is worthy of a citizen of the Kingdom and of the Gospel of Christ.”[[11]](#footnote-11)

In Philippians 1. Paul describes us as ‘bond servants’ of Christ Jesus. This is a person who has chosen to bind himself to one master all their days and to serve and love them only.

We are not ‘slaves’.

We are described as “holy, different”.

There is a wonderful thing about the difference between a slave and a ‘bond slave’. A slave is an ‘object’, a tool no different from a garden hoe, and yes, while we are ‘bond slaves’, we are sons and daughters of God and family of Jesus, the son of man, the Son of God.

A servant is free to come and go, they have an agreement, and to attach themselves to another master; but a slave is the possession of his master for ever: a ‘bond’ slave is an absolute possession of Jesus Christ. Christ has loved them and Christ has brought them with a great price and we can never belong to anyone else.

“One thing you must see to whatever happens – live a life that is worthy of a citizen of the Kingdom and of the Gospel of Christ.”[[12]](#footnote-12)

Like me you probably rebel at the word 'slave'? but this understanding is precious; it equals peace and quietness and all that goes with them.

Jesus did not leave us alone as orphaned children to work it out on our own – He asked the Father and the Father sent His Presence – His Holy Spirit to be in us and to guide and to strengthen and to be our companion and to bring Jesus to us in our new born individual and unique spirits – to grow in the person that God created us to be – that we are now in God the Creators eyes.

“What must I do to be saved?

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”[[13]](#footnote-13)

1. S.D.Gordon. Quiet Talks About Jesus. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. S.D.Gordon. Quiet Talks About Jesus. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Luke 21:1-4 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Matthew 20:20-24 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Ephesians 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Colossians 2:9 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. John 3:16 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Colossians 2:10 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. William Barkley quoting C.G.Montefiore [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Genesis 1:26-28. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Philippians 1:27 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Philippians 1:27 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Acts 16:30,31. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)