

2009

Campbell Chapel Free  
Will Baptist Church

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# God Blesses as He Pleases

**CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON**

**God Blesses as He Pleases**

*April 5, 2009*

Bob Bradley

**Matthew 20:1-16**

- 1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, which went out early in the morning to hire laborers into his vineyard.*
- 2 And when he had agreed with the laborers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.*
- 3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,*
- 4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way.*
- 5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise.*
- 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?*
- 7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.*
- 8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the laborers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.*
- 9 And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.*
- 10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.*
- 11 And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house,*
- 12 Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.*
- 13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?*
- 14 Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.*
- 15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?*
- 16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.*

This is a wonderful story and when you read it, there are some things that just don't make any sense. However, let's look at some things and maybe it will make just a little bit of sense to us, with the Lord being our helper.

**Previous Event**

This parable came about because of some things that had happened in chapter nineteen. There was a fellow who came to Jesus and he asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus asked him a question, "What is written in the Law?" Jesus told him about some things.

**Matthew 19**

*17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.*

As he gets down through here "...do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness..." "...Honor thy father and thy mother..." He mentions some things here and this young man looked at Jesus and said "Hey, I'm in good shape. All of these things have I kept from my youth up. I have not done any of these things. I haven't killed anybody. I haven't committed adultery. I have treated mom and dad right. I have done all this. Therefore, I'm in pretty good shape." However, Jesus looked at him and said, "If you want to have eternal life, go and sell what you have and give unto the poor and come and follow me; and you shall have eternal life." The Bible says that this fellow went away sorrowful because he had great possessions. Jesus in his speaking here; told the disciples how hard it was for someone who trusted in riches to go to heaven. He made the statement here and different other places that it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

We know that is impossible. Don't we? We know that would be impossible for a camel to go through the eye of a needle. Jesus did not say here if a man was wealthy he could not go. He did not say if a man was millionaire or billionaire, he could not go. He said an individual that was trusting in his riches could not go. He trusted in riches and not in Jesus Christ. That is what He is saying here.

Peter and the other disciples were listening to this. They were listening to what was going on here. Jesus tells Peter and the other disciples what they could have if they forsook this world and followed Him. Before this, Peter asked a question in verse 27.

*27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?*

What are we going to have? Since we have followed you, since we have forsaken it all and followed you, what are we going to get? That is why this parable comes about. I think Peter, and even in our lives sometimes, I think we get to thinking that because we have followed Jesus Christ, then God owes us something.

*28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

Peter says, "What are we going to have? We have forsaken it all. I have given up my fishing business. I have forsaken my occupation. We have left it all behind and you made the statement how hard it is for a rich man to go to heaven; then what are we going to get? What am I going to have if I'm going to follow You; since I have forsaken all and I'm going to follow You, then what am I going to have." He goes on and makes this statement:

*29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.*

Now that is what Jesus said. Wasn't it? Isn't it wonderful when we serve Jesus Christ, we don't serve Him because of what we can get, but we serve Him and worship Him because we love Him? Isn't it great when we will submit our will unto His will; when we will forsake this world and everything that is here, putting Him first and foremost in our life; isn't it great how He blesses you and me? Isn't it wonderful how He blesses you and me? Peter asked a question. "What am I going to have? What are we going have? We have forsaken all."

Friend listen, when we forsake this world and begin to follow Jesus Christ, we can have it all. That is exactly what we can have. We can everything that is important and that is worth anything. We can have that. That is exactly what Jesus is telling Peter.

We are living in a world today where people are thinking "What am I going to have? What can I get out of it? If I surrender my heart unto the Lord Jesus Christ, how much is it going to make me in dollars and cents?"

Listen today friend, if you are thinking about dollars and cents, and if you are only going to come to church because of what money you may put in your pocket; you are wasting your time. God does bless us. Every nickel that we have in our pocket all comes from Almighty God. When it comes, God blesses because we reverence Him and put Him first in our lives. That is why God blesses us. That is why we have so much more than we ever deserved. Everything that we have today has been given unto you and me by the hand of Almighty God. I say "Glory to His name." I'm a whole lot better off than I deserve and you are too. He's a good God. He's a great, great God.

Peter says, "Lord, what am I going to have? If I am going to follow You, what am I going to get?" That is the wrong attitude to have. That is not a good attitude. Peter had some problems. From time to time he stuck his foot in his mouth. Do you know what he did? I do the same thing a whole lot of times. You may not ever do that, but there are times in my life that I do the same thing. I get to thinking about things or saying things here that I may not understand sometimes. Peter was the same way. Do you know what Jesus was going to do here? He was going to show him some things that he needs to know.

First of all, you keep in your mind that Jesus Christ loves you.

## **The Householder**

### **Matthew 20**

*1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, which went out early in the morning to hire laborers into his vineyard.*

Listen to what this man is going to do. The Bible says that there was a certain man here who had a vineyard. He was a householder. There is none other that will fit this bill like the Lord Jesus Christ. **The**

**vineyard here that we are talking about, no doubt in my mind, is talking about the work that God has for you and me.** Do you know what He does? He goes out. The vineyard belongs to Him. He calls men to come and work for Him.

I'm glad, I'm glad, I'm glad that thirty some years ago, way out in the head of a holler, a long way from here; He called me to come and to follow Him. Do you know what I say tonight? I say, "Glory to His name." He is calling men today. The vineyard belongs to Him. It is all His. Do you know what He does?

*1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, which went out early in the morning to hire laborers into his vineyard.*

He has the vineyard. He is the householder. He is going out and hiring men to come and work in His vineyard.

### **The Call Comes**

*1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, which went out early in the morning to hire laborers into his vineyard.*

*2 And when he had agreed with the laborers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.*

This is what happens. The householder here; the one who owns the vineyard gets up early one morning. He goes down to the place where all the laborers would be gathered around and do you know what He does? There were some laborers down there. Do you know what they do? They begin to negotiate with the land owner. The Bible says that they agreed for a penny a day. Do you know what is going to happen here? The Bible says when they made their agreement then they started out and they went and they worked and worked. However, listen—I'm glad, I'm glad.

We see some of these little kids come very early in life. I'm glad. I've seen them come when they are four, five, six and seven years old. God has called and they have come. Do you know what they have decided to do? They have decided to follow and work for Jesus Christ. I praise the Lord for that. Don't you? Kids are coming. There are going to be some more coming too. There are going to be some middle aged people coming. There are going to be some people here in their 50's coming. Furthermore, there are going to be some people in their 60s and 70s coming. That's great! It's wonderful!

The Bible says here that the householder goes out and meets the workers down in the place where they would gather and where the people who owned the fields would come every day or early in the morning. They would hire the workers to go work in their field. The Bible says that these folks that he finds early in the morning negotiate with him for a penny a day. That's what they do. They negotiate with him. That is going to mean something further on.

*2 And when he had agreed with the laborers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.*

The day started at six o'clock in the morning. Here they are leaving to go to work in the morning at six o'clock.

*3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,*

Do you know what happens here? The Bible says that he agrees with some of these here at six o'clock in the morning for a penny a day. They were going to go out and work from six o'clock in the morning to six o'clock at night for one penny. One penny in our currency would probably be thirty some dollars, according to how you wanted to look at it. It was a fair day's wage for a fair day's pay. The Bible says that he goes out about nine o'clock in the morning and he sees some people who are still yet standing idle in the market place.

*4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way.*

I want you to think about something here. Some of them had gone at six o'clock in the morning. They had negotiated a contract with the master. These at nine o'clock, when he calls them; he says whatever is right I'm going to pay you. Do you know what they did? They took him by faith. They believed the man here; they believe that they were going to be taken care of.

Not only does God call little kids, but He calls teenagers to come and follow Him. God is a great God. Not all of our teenagers are hoodlums. Not all of them. Some of them know how to wear their pants. Some of them do. God is still yet calling young people.

The Bible says that He goes out third hour of the day. He finds some here in the marketplace that was standing idle. He said, "Go work in my vineyard and whatever is right that is what I will pay you." The Bible says they went.

Isn't it great to be able to trust the Lord?

Peter says, "What are we going to get? How much are we going to have?" The ones at six o'clock in the morning negotiated a contract with him to get a penny. However these at nine o'clock agreed that He will take care of us.

Friend, Jesus Christ will treat you right. Do you know what He does? He knows what is in our hearts. There is no doubt in my mind; He teaches some great things here.

This day that starts at six o'clock in the morning and ends at six o'clock PM. Do you know what we can do? We can insert everyone our lives in this particular day. From 6 AM to 6 PM, every one of us fits in that day. Some people get the call early in life. Some get it at six o'clock in the morning. Some people get it at nine o'clock in the morning. What I am saying is that God calls. He says "I've got work for you to do. You need to go work in my vineyard." Do you know what the vineyard is? It can be a lot of different things. However, in this story tonight, to me, the vineyard is our space. The vineyard is the church. The vineyard is the work that God has for you and me, whatever that is. Whether it is to sing, preach, pray, work, give, labor, whatever the responsibility is that God is giving you; then that is your

vineyard. God calls. He just simply says “Hey, I’ve got work for you to do. Will you come and work for me?” That is what God is doing today. He calls some early in the morning. He calls some at 9 AM.

Again, He goes out the sixth hour and the ninth hour. That is at noon and three o’clock. He goes out and there is still yet some people standing in the market place not doing anything. Do you know what the householder does? “Go work in my vineyard. I’ve got work for you to do.” Then He says, “Whatever is right, I will pay you.” Do you know what these fellows do that he calls at noon and these he calls at three o’clock? As you go on down through here; you will find some people in verse 6:

*6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?*

*7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.*

Not only at 6 AM, 9 AM, Noon, 3 PM, but even five o’clock in the afternoon, Jesus Christ, the land owner, is still yet calling people to go work in his vineyard. That’s right. There was work to do. There was a whole lot of work but not near enough laborers many times. He is sending these folks out to work in his vineyard.

### **Walking Right**

I don’t know if you have ever been around grapes much or not. Some people used to have a few vines here and there. However, if you have ever been around where they had a lot of grapes they done it different ways. I can remember one where they put posts in the ground they would run 2x4s or 2x6s from post to post like you would make a fence. Then they would take their vines and plant on these posts and the vines would grow up; not only would they grow up but they would grow across the boards. Then the vines or shoots would grow off and grow down on the ground. They would grow everywhere. If they had good ground and good water, they would grow everywhere.

The people who were going to go work in this vineyard, had to be people that had to walk right. Because if they did not walk right, do you know what would happen? They would be stepping on the grapes. They had to have a good walk. They had to know where they were going. They had to watch where they were going. Not only that but they had to be tender. They just couldn’t deal any way with the vines that were here. They had to deal with them in a tender, kind, gentle, way because the vines were very tender.

He is calling men to work for Him. Some very early in age, in life, some in their teens, some in their twenties, some in their 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s; God is still yet calling. He is calling people to come and work in His vineyard. That’s why He is calling us. This all came about because Peter asked a question, “Lord, what are we going to get? What are we going to get?”

*8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the laborers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.*

When the day was over and it was time to pay everybody; the master said, "Call all of the servants in and start with the ones who came last and pay them."

*9 And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.*

Get that. He agreed with the guys here at six o'clock in the morning for a penny, however, the guys who worked just one hour; He also gave one penny. Do you know what that is? That is the goodness of this land owner here. That is the goodness of this fellow, this householder. He did not have to do that. However, he said whatever is right, I will pay you. When they called them in, those who came at the third hour, the sixth, the ninth hour, and the eleventh hour; they all received a penny.

I thought about that if I had been standing in the line and the guy that came in at the eleventh hour got a penny, if I came in at three o'clock I probably would have been thinking that I was going to get more. However, that did not happen. The guy that came in at noon got the same thing as the guy that came in at the eleventh hour. Not only that but the guys who came in at nine o'clock in the morning; they got a penny also. The guys that started at six o'clock in the morning; they likewise got a penny. God was not being unjust / this land owner wasn't. He was being very merciful.

### **God Treats Us Right**

Do you know what happens in our lives many times? God does some great things. God begins to bless somebody else other than us. Do you know what we think? We think that because we have been saved for 20, 30 or 40 years that God owes something. God owes us to treat us right. That is what God owes us. He will be just with us. God will do what God said He would do.

Do you know what happens many times? We think that because we have been around for a while; and we have done this or that, and we've fought this battle or that battle then we should be getting blessed more than somebody else. Do you know what happens many times in our lives? We get to thinking like Peter. "Lord, what am I going to have? Lord, what am I going to get?" Like the guys here that started early in the morning; they began to complain. They began to murmur against this good man of the house. They said "Well, hey; this isn't right. We only got a penny. The guys who only worked one hour got a penny. This just could not be right." However, God is just. God is right. What God does is absolutely right. Do you know what we don't need to be doing? If God is blessing somebody else; we should be praising God. If God is blessing your neighbor, if God is blessing the church down the road, if there is revival down there and there is a thousand being saved; we should be lifting our hands towards heaven and praising God. He is a merciful God.

### **When We Think God Owes Us Something**

Do you know what happens a lot of times? We get up in the morning and we think that because we have been on this way for a long time that God owes something special. We get up in the morning and we get ready to go to work. We may go in and comb our hair and brush our teeth. We go out. We get out and we crank up our brooms and we jump startle them and go down the road with our hair sticking

straight back, our ears pinned toward our head, our jaws going backwards. When we get work, we set it down there and go inside with our hair still sticking straight up. Our ears are still pinned to our heads and we wonder why nobody will listen to us. We wonder why those working around us don't get saved. It is because we are living the wrong way. We think God owes us something. Do you know what we need to do? We need to straighten up.

That is what happens. I was thinking about that today. I was thinking about myself. I would get my motorcycle sometimes and take off, especially when my hair was little bit longer. Do you know what it will do? It will blow it out from under my helmet and it will stick right straight up in the back, or stick out the sides of it. If you don't wear helmet, do you know what you will do? It just goes every way. When you look in the mirror, you look real scary. That is how we look sometimes to the world when we think that God owes us something.

I've been saved for 20, 30, 40 or 50 years; God should be blessing me more than He is somebody else. God should bless me more than somebody who just got saved. If you lived right, He may do that. If you would straighten up, He may do that. Do you know what we do? We get on our brooms and we kick start it. Then we go back home and nothing that our husband or wife has done is right. If he has mowed the grass, it looks awful. If she has washed the dishes, they are dirty. If she has cooked dinner, then it is not fit for a dog to eat. Do you know why? It is because we think that God owes us something. Do you know what God owes us? God will be just and right. He will treat us right. **God promises us that if we will come to Him, He will give us eternal life. That is a promise from Almighty God.** If you are just going to come and follow Him just because of what you can get. Then I'm afraid you are going to be disappointed. I have never been disappointed with Him.

When I came to Him, I was lost and undone. I knew that I was damned. I knew that I was doomed. I was not worrying about what I was going to get financially. Do you know what I was looking for? I was looking for redemption for my soul. I knew that there was a hell out there and that was where I was going. I wasn't worrying about money, things or even my wife; I didn't care. I wanted to get saved. I knew I was doomed. Do you know what? Jesus Christ came in and saved me. No. I don't have a whole lot today. However, I have a whole lot more now than I had then. I'm not boasting. I'm bragging on Him.

### **When God is Generous Towards Others**

What are we going to do? Are we going to complain because God is generous and His generosity is great towards somebody else? We should praise God for His goodness towards others. Do you know what the Lord says when they begin to murmur and complain? He says, "Hey, I've done you no wrong. We agreed that you would work for a penny a day." Had they not been so concerned about what they were going to get paid, they probably would have got paid more. Do you know why? It is because the householder here was a very generous guy. They worked all day. They worked in the heat of the day. They worked twelve hours or whether they only worked one hour; they all got the same money. Do you know what they thought? They could not trust the householder to be good to them and to take of them

and pay them. They had to have a contract. That is what we do with God sometimes. "I'll do this if God, you will do that..." you are wasting your time.

God is not Monty Hall. He does not make deals. He doesn't do that. Do you know what you can't do? You can't trade what is behind door one to what is behind door three. It does not happen that way. This is God's plan for your life. You accept it. You go with it. God will bless you; or you don't go at all. That's what God says. The Bible says the householder says "You take what is yours. This is what we agreed with is a penny. Besides all that, it belongs to me. Can't I do what I want to with my stuff? Can't I give to whoever I want to?" God can do that. He's God. It belongs to Him.

### **God Gives Salvation to All Who Will Follow Him**

I'm glad that when God calls whether we are young, teenagers, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 or 80s; whatever we may be, when God calls and we respond to the call then God will give us salvation. He gives us all salvation whether we are 10, or 60. When God calls, God speaks; if we will come and follow Him, God will give us all salvation.

In the kingdom of heaven, there is not going to be any big "I's" or little "u's." All saved people go to heaven. I know that during the kingdom age there are going to be some different responsibilities and privileges we are going to be having. I understand that. However, in our eternal place that we are going to go, we are all going to be on the same level. Whether we got saved when we were 8 years-old, or whether we got saved when we were 80 years-old; if we receive Jesus Christ, we are all going to the same heaven. That's a gracious God. That's a merciful God. God loves us. God cares about us.

Don't be complaining if God isn't blessing you as much as he is blessing someone else. Do you know what you need to do? You need to straighten up. Comb your hair. Wash your face. Clean up a little bit. Slow down a tad. Do you know what you might figure out? You might figure out a whole bunch about yourself. You may figure out some things about God too. He is a very gracious God. If we will just live right and do right; God will bless us.

He is calling today. He is speaking today.

The decision is yours. The response is up to you. God is calling. He is saying come and work for me. Come—I've got work for you to do. He wants you to do that tonight.

I don't know where you are at tonight. I don't know your situation. I don't know whether you are lost or not. I do know that Jesus Christ loves you. He went to the cross, suffered, bled and died. Just for me and just for you. Come—while He is calling.