



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Have you ever been hired by Jesus Christ?

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Bob Bradley

There are some thoughts on our minds today that I know probably most of you come thinking but I was going to be talking about the resurrection. A lot of times we do that. Brother Donnie did a great job talking about that this morning in our Sunrise Service. We are going to talk about something else today. The Lord has placed this on our hearts. I don't know that I have ever thought about this scripture in this way. As a matter of fact, I'm positive that I haven't. It is a story. It is a lesson. There is a truth here that I want us to see and I want us to get this morning, the Lord being our helper.

Matthew 20:1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man *that is* an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.

Matthew 20:2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

Matthew 20:3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

Matthew 20:4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way.

Matthew 20:5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise.

Matthew 20:6 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?

Matthew 20:7 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.

Matthew 20:8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them *their* hire, beginning from the last unto the first.

Matthew 20:9 And when they came that *were hired* about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.

Matthew 20:10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

Matthew 20:11 And when they had received *it*, they murmured against the goodman of the house,

Matthew 20:12 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.

Matthew 20:13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?

Matthew 20:14 Take *that* thine *is*, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.

Matthew 20:15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

Matthew 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

This story came about, this parable came about because Jesus had been talking to a young man, a young rich fellow. This young rich man, I don't know how much he had. I don't know how much he owned. I don't know anything about that. I do know that he was really in love with what he had. Jesus told this young man to go and sell what he had and give to the poor and come and follow me. He also told him, He makes the statement not only to him, but also others that were there. He told him how hard it was for people that trust in riches to be able to enter into the kingdom of heaven. He made the statement; it is harder for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone that trust in riches to get into heaven. Now He didn't say that rich people were not going to go to heaven. He didn't say that all. A lot of people that don't have anything at all but they are trusting in what they have instead of trusting in Jesus Christ. When we trust in anything other than Jesus Christ, then we are going to have difficulties in life.

Peter was here. He heard that. He began to say, "Lord, we have forsaken all. If this rich man, and all that he has; if he is not going to be able to go, then what are we going to have, what are you going to give us since we have forsaken all and we have followed you. What are we going to get? That is a question that we have asked a lot today.

If I am going to follow Jesus Christ then what is it going to mean to me. What am I going to get out of it? What is it going to do for me, if I surrender my life, to the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you know what the first thing it is going to do? It is going to give you eternal life. When you follow the Lord Jesus Christ, it is going to give you hope, and it is going to give you peace. It is going to make a brand-new creature out of you when we say yes to Jesus Christ.

This story here that we want to talk about this morning came about because of what Jesus says here. He tells him, "If you guys have followed me in the regeneration of men, you are going to have these things. Your houses, fathers, mothers, and sisters and you are going to have a hundred-fold in this life, but you will have eternal life to come. He told them this, but He also goes on and says, "I have something else I want to tell you. I have another story here I want to talk to you about and put in your mind so that you can think about some things here. While you are living here on planet earth, there are some things here that I want you to consider."

Jesus here, He was speaking these words, the last week of His life, just a matter of hours, a few days before He was going to die. This story here, He was speaking these stories here, and this parable. He wants the folks here to think about some things.

Do you know what I want us to do this morning? Just for a few minutes, I want you to think what Jesus here was really saying.

The Bible tells us here that He compares the kingdom of heaven like unto a householder. The Bible tells us here, it talks about a householder here. This guy is someone that employs people. Do you know what I thought about, as I thought about this story? In the biblical times, agriculture and farming was a great big part, and they

needed people. They went out every day and they would hire people. The Bible tells us here that the kingdom of heaven is like a man, a person, a king, a householder that has a vineyard. The Bible says here that he goes out early in the morning and he hires people to work in his vineyard. The Bible says here that they had agreed for a penny a day, and when they agreed for that the householder said, "Hey, you go ahead and work in my vineyard."

What I want you to think about this morning is this. I want you to think about; have you ever been hired by Jesus Christ? You may have a job at Walmart. You may work at a steel mill. You may work at a school. That is all good, great and fine. I want you to ask yourself a question today. Have you ever been hired by Jesus Christ? Do you know what He is doing today? He is calling people today, in every stage of life. This story here this morning is about the different stages of life that we live. Do you know what Jesus does? Jesus Christ even calls the young.

When you look at the scriptures, when you look at Matthew 19, I believe it is; they brought some children unto Jesus one time for Him to lay His hand upon them. The Bible says that the disciples began to rebuke Him. Do you know what? Rebuke those that brought them, to take these kids away. Do you know what Jesus said? Suffer these little children and forbid them not to come unto me. For such is the kingdom of heaven. The Bible says He took them. He laid His hands upon them. Do you know what He did? He changed their lives.

You, young people listening to me today, I want you to understand the greatest thing you need in life is Jesus Christ. You need an education. You surely do. you need to have a job. You might need a lot of things in life. But the greatest thing that you need, in your life is Jesus Christ. There is something remarkable about young people. Young people has a lot of enthusiasm. If you got saved when you were young, we probably all of us could say that we had a lot more enthusiasm then than we have today. Truth! Young people, you need Jesus Christ. We live in a world today, when young people are being pulled every way. This world has all kinds of games. They have all kinds of gimmicks. They have all kinds of things that are going—do you know what we don't understand sometimes. We don't understand that satan is behind some of these gadgets and things that we bring into our homes and we give our kids. We turn them loose and say just go ahead and do whatever you want to do.

Listen. You, young people, you need Jesus Christ. There is a God in heaven this morning that is sitting on the throne today. Do you know what He is doing? He is calling young people unto repentance in this day and time that we live in.

If you look at statistics, do you know what you will find out? Sixty-four percent of the people that get saved today are under twenty years old. Do you know why? Because children and young people's hearts are tender. God can call and they will respond. They have not had time to be sin hardened out in the world. God is calling you young people today. I promise you something. He wants you to work in His vineyard. He has

a job for you. He will bless you. He will take you to places that you never ever thought you could be. You might say that God would not do that. I promise you today, if you will be obedient to God, God can take some of you people and make leaders out of you guys. He can make preachers out of you, pastors, teachers, doctors, and lawyers; God will bless your life when you follow Him. Do you know how I know that? I have been there.

The last forty years, we have seen a lot of young people get saved. Do you know what God has done? I have seen the Lord take young people and do so many great things with them. He has not changed any. God is still yet calling today. God is calling young people. When He goes out early in the morning, do you know who He is calling? Do you know who He was calling in this stage of your life? God is calling you. In the infancy of your life, in the young part of your life, in the early part of your life; God calls.

You may be in the later stages of your life here this morning. You may not have responded to the call earlier in your life, but somewhere in your life, God calls. Do you know why He is calling? He wants to give you a job. He wants to hire you. Listen. You don't have to worry about the rewards with Almighty God. You don't have to worry about being paid. Amen!

We might work at our jobs today. We might take our checks—a few years ago, when we used to work in the coal mines. If you got your check on Friday, you didn't know whether you were going to have any money or not because you didn't know whether the check was going to bounce or not.

Do you know what? Working for Jesus Christ, do you know what you don't have to worry about? You don't have to worry about the check bouncing. You don't have to worry about what God is going to do and how God is going to reward you, because I promise you something. God will take your life and He will make something out of your life. You may have all kinds talent today. Do you know what God wants more than your talent? He wants you. He wants you to come and follow Him. Do you know what God can do, if you will allow Him? God can take some of the natural talent that you have and He can use that for His glory.

God is calling young people today. He is calling you. Do you know what we need to do today? We need to say, yes Jesus, I will work for you. When you do that, your life will change.

It is not easy at school. You may get made fun of every now and then. Some of you guys go to middle school, grade school, high school. Not always easy. It is not always easy for us adults either. We get ridiculed, run down, and talked about and mocked and all that stuff. Here is the thing. We are working for the God of heaven. When we leave it in His hands, do you know what He will always do? He will always take care of it.

I learned a long time ago, in life. He is the one that will fight our battles for us if we will let Him. When the children of Israel, when they got into the land that God gave them;

do you know what all they had to do? Just simply follow Him. That is all they had to do. There were some battles they had to fight, but the victory was already there. God had already promised them if they will just follow Him, then He would give them victory. Do you know what? They never lost one battle following the Lord God. They lost a battle or two but it wasn't because they were following the Lord. They lost a few battles in their life because they quit following Him.

Do you know what the Bible says here?

Matthew 20:3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

The day began at six o'clock in the morning. That is when the householder would go out. The vineyard owner would go out. He would go out at six o'clock in the morning.

Used to many years ago, if you were part of a union, if you wanted to work that particular day, in a lot of places, you would go to the union hall. The people in the community or the businesses in the community, if they needed somebody they would call the union hall and if you were there, they would dispense you out.

It was the same way here, back in the land here. If you wanted to work, and you needed to work; you got the marketplace in the morning and there would be somebody there to hire you. The Bible says at nine o'clock...

Matthew 20:3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

He goes back to the marketplace where he had hired these workers, three hours before and do you know he finds? He finds people here that are still standing idle. He asks them the question, what are you doing here? They make the statement here. They are standing here idle. He tells them to go. He said, you go and work in my vineyard and whatever is right then that is what I will give to you. The Bible says these guys went.

Listen. You may be over twenty years old. I don't know how old you may be. I don't what stage in life that you are in. I know that God is calling teenagers today to be saved. I know that. Also, God is calling people today that are between twenty and thirty-five to get saved today.

He goes out the third hour here at nine o'clock in the morning and he begins to call. He begins to ask people to come and follow him.

I don't know how old you are today. You may have rejected Jesus Christ when you were in your teenage years. Do you know what God is still yet doing today? God is still calling. God is still yet pleading with you. Do you know what the scary thing about this is this? Sixty-three or sixty-four percent of the people that are getting saved today, are getting saved through their teenage years. When you get from twenty to thirty-five, do you know how much that drops. That drops to thirty-three percent of the people getting saved are between twenty and thirty-five.

Do you know why? Because we don't want to listen to God. We have got out in the world and we got involved in the world and we got involved in sin and we think we know it all. We think we don't need God. I promise you something. You need Him today. If you will come to Him today, He will save you. He will hire you.

He is calling people today, to follow Him. The question is today; "Do you want to be hired by Him?" Who do you want to work for? Do you want to work for satan? Or do you want to work for Jesus Christ? It is a fair question. Don't you think? I think that is a good question. Because we are either doing one of two things.

The Bible says here, he goes down at the third hour. He goes to the marketplace. He finds them standing there. They are idle. They are not doing anything. I don't know why they weren't there at six o'clock in the morning. I don't know why they weren't there three hours before. I don't know the answer to that. I know some people likes to sleep in. I know some people are lazy. I know some people don't want to get up early to go to work. I know all of those things. What I don't know is why that these guys were not hired when they first started hiring people. I don't know. Do you know what I also know? Some people, when they are through their teenage years they don't listen. They don't respond. They get involved in different things. I understand all of that.

Listen. If you are here today, and God is speaking to you; it doesn't matter how old you are or what stage you are in your life. It may be early in your life. It may be the third hour in your life. It may be the sixth hour and the ninth hour.

The Bible says here that he goes back out. Not only did he go at nine o'clock but he goes back at noon, and he goes back at three o'clock. Do you know what you find out? There are still yet people here in this marketplace that are still not yet working. He asks a question again. What are you guys doing here? Why are you standing here idle all day? They said nobody has hired us. nobody wants to hire us. Do you know what? Sometimes we make excuses. Sometimes we make excuses and say God would never forgive me. God would never allow me to work for Him. God would never put me on His payroll. Listen to me today. God will put you on His payroll. He will save you. He will sign you up. The benefits you will get are out of this world. You may not get any social security. They may take Medicaid and Medicare away. I will tell you something this morning. There is one thing that they are not going to take away from the people of God and that is eternal life that we are going to be able to live with Him forever and forever.

I know people are trusting in their 401K's and they are trusting in their retirement. Listen. That can all go away with the click of a button. What you need is something that is eternal. What is eternal is a relationship with the God of heaven.

I don't know what stage in life you are. I don't know. I know we are all in different stages. I know we have young people here. In the early stages of their life, we hope. We hope this is the early stage of your life. We have some people here that is between twenty and thirty-five. That is great. Those are great years to get married and have

kids. Do you remember those years? Some of you are there now. However, raising kids is a great time. It is a struggle sometimes. It is a battle sometimes. Do you know what? Raising kids is a great thing.

Not only did he go out in the morning at nine o'clock, at twelve o'clock, and at three o'clock but he goes back out at five o'clock in the afternoon. Eleven hours after the day started. They started at six in the morning. They worked until six in the evening. That was their normal day. He goes back out at the eleventh hour. Do you know what he finds? He still yet finds people idle, not working for him. There are all kinds of work that needs to be done. However, they are not working for him. They are just idle. Doing nothing. He asked them. What are you guys doing? Why have you stood here all day and done nothing?

I mean this sincerely. I have stood at the side of people dying well up in years. Bob, I've wasted my life. I have wasted my entire life.

These guys here that Jesus is talking to; He is talking to people who have wasted their life. This day that Jesus is talking about there is no doubt in my mind, He is talking about our life. Young, middle aged, and old. They had wasted their life. They had wasted their whole day. They had wasted their whole day. They could have been hired early. They could have been hired at nine o'clock. They could have been hired at noon. They could have been hired at three o'clock. Here it is five o'clock in the afternoon and the going down of the sun of our lives and yet they still yet have never been hired. It is not that he didn't call. He was there. He called. He called early. It said he did. He went out early and called. He went back three hours later and called. He went back three hours after that and called. He went back three hours after that and called. He kept calling.

Do you know what God is doing today? God is calling, folks. The Holy Spirit of God is calling. He is calling you to come and work for Him. Jesus Christ wants you to work for Him. Amen! He is a good master.

Before I got saved, do you know what I thought? I thought I would never have any friends. If I get saved I would never have any friends. Nobody would like me. I wouldn't have anything to do. I would sit on the porch and whittle. That was the furthest thing from the truth. I got saved in a little church half this size a long way away from here, on May 15th, 1976. It seems like—I know its been 40 years or 42 years or whatever it has been. It seems like that (snap of a finger) that those 42 years have gone. I was a young man then. I was in the early part of my life. Do you know what I don't regret? Never one time, have I ever regretted the night I walked forward and said, Lord, please save me. Never one time have I done that. I have made all kinds of failures. I have been ashamed of myself. I have blown up sometimes. I have done all of that. However, there has never been a time that He has ever disappointed me as being my master. There have been times that He had to take me to the wood shed. Amen! There have been times that He had to line me up. There have been times He

had to tell me to straighten up or I would sit on the seat until I rotted. Amen! He never ever did me wrong. He never forsook me. Do you know what He never did do? I never did get laid off. I never did get laid off. There was always work to do.

I have had jobs before—I don't guess I had a job for very long, 8 to 10 years, 6 or 8 years. I must have had 50 jobs in my life I reckon. The plant would close. The place would go under. They would lay you off. They would fire you or whatever.

With Jesus Christ, I have never ever been laid off. There is always work to do. There is always plenty of work to do.

He says to these guys that has been standing here for eleven hours, what are you doing standing here. Why have you stood here all day? I have got work for you to do. I have got work for you to do. I want to bless you. I want you to be able to be a blessing to your family. You work for me. I pay you. You take care of your family. Amen! They said, nobody has hired us. Again, I think they are just making excuses. He says that is fine. Go work in my vineyard. You work for me, even though there is only one hour left in this day. You may be in the Saturday evening of your life. This may be the last Sunday that you will ever see here on planet earth. It could be for any of us. Life is very uncertain. You may be in the last days or hours of your life. If you have never responded positively to the call of Jesus Christ to come work for Him. If you do that today, you are going to be rewarded with eternal life. Even though you have not bared the burden like a lot of people who have been saved 40 to 60 years. You are going to be rewarded. Do you know what happens? These guys go and work. When six o'clock comes in the evening the householder tells the steward, gather in the workers. We are going to pay them and let them go home to their families. He says start at the last, pay them first and then pay those that came first. They guys that he had hired at 5 o'clock in the evening came. Do you know how much money they got? They got the same amount as the other guys got. They had only worked one hour. However, the master, this householder was someone that led people. He was very generous. He was a generous master. He gave them a full day's pay even though they had only worked one hour. Do you know what you are going to be able to receive if you have been saved one hour, if you were saved when you were a teenager, if you were saved when you were twenty, thirty-five, and thirty-five on; do you know what you are going to receive? You are going to receive the same eternal life that I have. Amen!

I have seen people saved on their death bed. Then just an hour or two or a few minutes before they die, I have seen people repent and they got the same eternal life that I got. Isn't that awesome? Doesn't that tell you how great that God really is and how generous He really is? We serve a great God. Do you know what He wants to do today? It doesn't matter if you are in your teenage years, whatever stage of life you are in—I don't know. However, I do know this. Statistics prove this. After thirty-five years old, only three percent of the people that get saved are over thirty-five years old. That is not saying that you can't get saved after thirty-five. It does say this. When we get thirty-five or forty years old, we get entrenched in this world. God calls and He calls, and He

continues to call. Do you know what happens? We get to the place we don't listen. We get to the place that even though He calls, the call is not quite as loud as it was when we were younger. The call is not quite as real to us as we were younger. Not that the call isn't real or not that it is not loud, but we have got so entrenched in this world and things become dim. We become hardened to spiritual things. We sin and we think God wouldn't forgive us. We think God wouldn't cleanse us. We think God wouldn't hire us because of the sin we have committed. We get to thinking like that.

What I want you to know this morning is this. Jesus Christ calls everybody; in the young part of your life, in the middle age, in old age, God calls. God is calling today. It doesn't matter what part of life and what you may do in life. Jesus called fishermen to follow Him. Jesus called publicans to follow Him. Jesus cleansed a woman, one time, that lived a very immoral life. "Come and follow me." And she did. He called tax collectors, people that were hated, people that were diseased, and people that were outcasts in society, Jesus Christ called them and they came and followed Him.

Listen today. I don't know where you are at in life. I don't know what stage of life you are in. I don't have any idea. I don't know that about myself. I know I don't know about you. I do know this. The God of heaven is calling. He speaks to your heart. He speaks down in here. He knocks on your heart down in here. He will whisper in your ear. He will do that. He will tell you that He loves you. He tells you that He wants to save you. He will cleanse you, that you can come and be His servant. He will be your master. He will save you. He will tell you all those things.

Here is the thing. Are you willing to step out and say, "Hey, I will go work for you today. I want you to be my master. I made a mess out of my life. I don't know where I am going or what is happening. I don't know any of that stuff but I will let you be my master." Do you know what He will do today? If you will simply ask Him, this day; Lord, save me. Lord let me be your servant. Lord, I want to work for you. He will put you to work. He will give you a job that you will love. He will give you a job that you can be a blessing to people. He will give you a job that you can be a blessing to your husband or your wife, or your children or your grandchildren. He will give you a great job today.

First of all, you have to say yes. You have to come down to this altar and say yes to Him. Find you a place to pray somewhere.

God is speaking. God is calling. Whatever age you are this morning, whatever stage in life you are today; why don't you come today? Why don't you come down? Let's call upon the God of heaven. He will forgive you. He will cleanse you. Come on today. Jesus loves you. He died for you. Come.

Come and pray—