

Book of Matthew, Auditing The Master: A Tax-Collector's Report
(partial transcription of a talk by Cobbe Crisler with permission from Janet C.)

what forced many women into prostitution, into poverty, into suicide, because they were cut off without any aid. They were a despised, subordinate sex at the whim of their husbands, to be set aside.

(Verse 9). Jesus, in his protection of womanhood, says that "divorce should only occur for fornication. There the wife herself has made the election that she wants to break the contract, or has broken it, and consequently it is not just the decision of one."

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(Verse 4). However, he does emphasize that marriage should reflect or express in its highest sense Genesis 1 (Verse 27), where "male and female were made at the beginning."

Parable number 9, discusses the labor dispute. In Chapter 20 we have the parable of the eleventh hour. We say today, "People come in at the eleventh hour." Something was saved. Here's where it comes from. It was really one of the first labor union's squabbles on record.

20:3

(Verse 3). "Because we have those who were hired at the beginning of the day, 9:00 o'clock in the morning." (The third hour.)

(Verse 5). "Some who were hired at noon." The sixth hour is noon. And the ninth hour at 3:00 p.m. They worked from that time on.

(Verse 7). They all agreed or contracted for the same wage. Whoever came in to work just said, "Sure, I'll be glad to work for that wage."

But when they found out later that everybody, regardless of how long they worked, was getting paid the same, then you had a union dispute.

Verse 12 is the expression of the unrest involved in the dispute. The eleventh-hour people had worked only one hour, why are they getting paid the same? I think many of us would probably ask the same thing. But remember, the explanation is given here that they all had contracted for it and they all were very happy at that wage until they compared.

Everybody had entered into their own single contract and agreed with it until they found out that someone else was getting the same for less work. That's what caused the dispute.

What is the lesson in the parable? There may be some who have worked in the burden and heat of the day for the cause of truth. There may be some who find it only at the last minute. But isn't the reward the kingdom of heaven? And do you divide the kingdom of heaven up and determine that someone receives less a quantity than others? If the reward is really tailor-made to our need, then why should we object if others have it also tailor-made to their needs? **Matt. 20:10**

(Verse 18). Has he forewarned his disciples according to this gospel's account that the crucifixion was going to happen?

(Verse 19). Look at the details, "mock, scourge, crucify: and the third day he shall rise again."

What happens right after he tells all this?

(Verse 21). Here's a stereotype of motherhood, saying, "I've got two sons, Jesus, and I'd appreciate

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