

Sermon – Workers in the Vineyard -Hidden Mystery part A (Parables 13)

Scripture – Mathew 20:1-16

Main Message – The Easy part is that eternal life is an exceedingly similar reward regardless of the timing, but..... *there is still a mystery to understand.*

Read Mathew 20:1-16

Who are the workers in the vineyard. Those who call Jesus Lord. He is our master. His reward is with him. The single-most understood reward is the gift of eternal life. There are other rewards for those who serve, but for the most part I don't understand what they could be that wouldn't pale in comparison to eternal life. So, to be honest, I tend not to think of them.

So regardless of when someone calls Jesus Lord and begins their act of service the reward of eternal life is there for them. I believe we can all agree on that. But in some of the parables there are hidden mysteries which require a deeper understanding of God's word, otherwise it will stay a hidden mystery. I don't know how vital knowing mysteries are, but if you happen to like delving into and solving mysteries, then you certainly want to dig into this one.

I mentioned during one of the prior parables about a certain component of timing that people are willfully ignorant of, Peter's words not mine, and that is the concept of the different ages. Peter mentioned this knowledge in his epistle 2nd Peter 3. Careful reading of this establishes that our history and knowledge is far exceeded by God's history and knowledge and times prior to our common knowledge.

Keep this thing in mind. If you find yourself in the midst of a mystery and you discover the meaning, it really isn't that mysterious any longer. It also explains other things that are difficult to understand.

The single-biggest problem with biblical mysteries is that they quickly get SPIRITED away with weakened explanations leaving nothing of true value towards real understanding. This is usually done in order to maintain the traditional understanding status, so folks are not made to be uncomfortable, but also don't have any more knowledge. Knowledge is power. What's wrong with a traditional understanding, *nothing except it could be **absolutely wrong***, which is the real issue with half-truths. Case in point is the serpent in the Garden of Eden. It's not a snake, its Satan. (rev 12:9 & 20:2)

SO next week we will flesh out our understanding. So, I could be wrong. More interestingly, I could be right. I would not be alone if I am wrong and others also believe what I do. You can do with it as you will, but when you start chipping away at the mysteries, other scripture which is elusive to many starts to become far less mysterious and actually much more obvious.

Look at the first part of that last verse. Last/first, first last. That is an extra piece of information we should try to understand. Why? Because Jesus used this parable to more succinctly answer the question that Peter asked Jesus at the end of the prior Chapter. Let's read that real quick.

Read Mathew 19:27-30

So the parable in Chapter 20 is meant to make the point of the first being last AND the last first. So what does that mean? Well, next week we will dig in further.