LAST IN LINE

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. Matthew 20: 6, 7.

Christ tells the story of a householder or landowner who has a vineyard for which he needs laborers. He goes to the place where available workers usually gather and hires workers at 9am, hires more at noon, goes again and hires some at 3pm, and goes back at 5pm and hires more. It seems from the words of our Lord that these men had been standing there all day; if that be the case these workers were the bottom of the barrel, the last to be chosen, the mere left-overs. I am glad God doesn’t work like we do. Further in our text we find that those hired at 5pm received the same pay as those who were hired at 9am. I know from experience that being chosen last has degrading effect on a person but to this man these last were as important as the first. The men who were hired last may have spent many a day not being hired at all. They may not have been the best workers; they could have been well past their prime; they may have possessed certain disabilities that slowed them down; but for some reason they had been passed over at the other hiring times. What a blessing to finally be chosen to work in this man’s vineyard. At least on this day they would take home a small amount of money. It would not be much but it was better than nothing. Much to their surprise, come pay time, they received a full days wage! The co-workers complained that the last received the same wage as the first but the work agreement was between the workers and the man who owned the vineyard. This was a good owner. What a blessing to be chosen by him to work in his vineyard! Those who had been picked over so many times would leave the work-place on this evening and could go to the grocery store.

The story has a greater meaning. Some are saved early in life and others may be saved late in life but all who are saved will receive heaven. You see, the first chosen workers had an added blessing over those who were chosen late and it was simply this: all day long they knew their pay was coming at the end of the day. Those chosen late worried all the day that they would even be given a job and it wasn’t until late in the day that they received that assurance. Those who are saved early in life live most of their life knowing they have the Lord’s promise of everlasting life while those who are saved late in life usually have the worry of dying without Christ until they finally surrender to him. It is the greatest honor of earth and heaven to be chosen by God to be a part of his family. As Jesus knocks at your heart’s door, open quickly and find that blessed assurance of having your sins forgiven and your name written in heaven. By the way, God has a wonderful grocery store!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram