



THE PASTOR'S PEN

Volume 46 No. 28

April 18, 2016

Gracious and Generous

In Jesus' day there were no labor organizations or unions; day laborers gathered in the town marketplace early in the morning, waiting and hoping to be hired. The average pay for a day's work was a denarius, a Roman coin sufficient to purchase basic necessities. The landowner, anxious to get his harvest in before the rains, went to the labor pool at six in the morning and recruited some workers. The harvest was great and the laborers were few, so he returned at nine, at noon and at three in the afternoon. At five he still needed workers so he hired yet another group.

The men hired early in the day would not go to work until they knew how much they would make. The other workers had no contract, they trusted the owner to give them what was right. The owner paid the men in reverse order, so that the six am group would see how generous he was to those who did not have a contract. The first group of men complained, of course, but what they received was exactly what they had bargained for.

The principle of stewardship at work in Jesus' teaching is the law of Rightful Reward. He is establishing the fact that rewards for stewardship and service are granted by God, not gained by man. We must trust the Lord and rely on His Word and His character. After all, God does not limit Himself to what is just and equal; He gives what is gracious and generous. We should therefore never be anxious about our reward or afraid of God's will, for He will always do what is best for us if we simply obey Him with the right heart attitude.

God Bless,

Paul

