

Matthew's Gospel

Now the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage". So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and he did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too". In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first". So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.

Matthew's Gospel 20, 1-16

QUESTIONS

1. Is it the first time you read or listen to that Parable?
2. Do you accept the message included in the text? Why?
3. Do you think something similar to it could happen in your school? Why?
4. Has it ever happened to you?
5. Take out from the text three sentences in reported speech.
6. Tell the story again in no more than 50 words.
7. Vocabulary. Give a synonym, antonym or explain the meaning of the following words:
Landowner:
grumble:
earning: