

C & C: But Many that are First shall be Last, And the Last shall be First

Connections and Comparisons is an ongoing weekly series that deals with many scriptures in the Bible, some of which are not commonly addressed. The purpose of this series is to examine the scriptures at hand comparing what is said and looking at the connections within.

Matthew 20:1-16

1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.

2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

3 And he went out about the **third hour**, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

4 And said unto them; **Go ye also into the vineyard**, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way.

5 Again he went out about the **sixth and ninth hour**, and did likewise.

6 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.

8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, **Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.**

9 And when they came that were hired about the **eleventh hour**, they received every man a penny.

10 **But when the first came**, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

11 And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house,

12 **Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.**

13 But he answered one of them, and said, **Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?**

14 **Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.**

15 **Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?**

16 **So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.**

The parable that Jesus has spoken is to teach us that whether you were brought up in the faith and worked laboring your whole life for the kingdom of heaven and someone who is just about to die and may or may not know it who comes into the vineyard to work for the Lord that their reward is still the kingdom of heaven. Thank God for that! A person may reject Christ even up to their old age, let's say 94 years old and then repent, obey the faith, and they too will receive the kingdom of heaven just like those who labored their whole life for Jesus in the vineyard. This parable is meant to show us of the same reward that we will receive, namely the kingdom of heaven. However, those who worked in the vineyard or in the harvest field will receive rewards according to how they built upon the foundation that was laid which is Jesus Christ.

If you notice in this parable that “the last shall be first, and the first last” was referring to the receiving of the kingdom of heaven. Those who came in the latest will be the first to begin to receive the promises of God. However, every man’s work that he has done will be tried of what sort it is.

John 5:22

22 For the Father judgeth no man, **but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:**

John 12:47-50

47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, **I judge him not:** for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, **hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.**

49 **For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.**

50 And I know that his commandment is **life everlasting:** **whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.**

Matthew 12:36-37

36 But I say unto you, **That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.**

37 **For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.**

Jesus has let us know that the Father has “committed all judgment unto the Son” and that it is the words that Jesus has spoken, which were the words that “the Father which sent” him gave him commandment of what he should say, and what he should speak that will “judge him in the last day”. The him being each one of us and we will give account of “every idle word that men shall speak” “in the day of judgment” which is “in the last day”.

1 Corinthians 6:1-3

1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

2 **Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?** and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

3 **Know ye not that we shall judge angels?** how much more things that pertain to this life?

Though every one will be judged by God we also learn that as his saints we too “shall judge the world” and “we shall judge angels”.

Jude 1:6

6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, **he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.**

2 Peter 2:4

4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, **to be reserved unto judgment;**

Revelation 1:5-6

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, **and washed us from our sins in his own blood,**

6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 5:9-10

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: **for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;**

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

The saints of God will “reign on the earth” as “kings and priests unto God and his Father”.

Daniel 7:21-27

21 I beheld, and the same horn **made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;**

22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Revelation 2:26-28

26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

28 And I will give him the morning star.

Even as the parable of the laborers in the vineyard all receiving the same reward of the kingdom of heaven, even so will every one that overcomes “reign on the earth” as “kings and priests unto God and his Father”. They will also every one that overcomes receive the rewards promised to each of the seven churches in the book of Revelation chapters two and three.

Matthew 25:31-34

31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, **then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:**

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, **Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

Isaiah 2:1-4

1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Acts 17:30-31

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; **but now commandeth all men every where to repent:**

31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

There is coming a day when Jesus “will judge the world in righteousness”!

Romans 2:12-16

12 For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;

13 (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, **but the doers of the law shall be justified.**

14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, **their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)**

16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Matthew 19:27-30

27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

28 And Jesus said unto them, **Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**

29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, **for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.**

30 **But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.**

Even as we learned from Jesus concerning the laborers in the vineyard receiving the same reward of a penny for their wages, even so he went to the last first until he came to those who had worked the vineyard all day. Even so shall every one who is saved working in the Lord's vineyard or harvest, they will "inherit everlasting life" "the kingdom of heaven".

Mark 9:33-35

33 And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, **What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?**

34 **But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.**

35 And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, **If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.**

While each one of us are at home in our earthly tabernacle or body, if we desire to be great we must be "servant of all" because "the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen" the meaning given to us as the laborers in the vineyard that the first labored the whole day while the last labored less time some coming in even at "the eleventh hour" and the last were first to receive whereas those who worked all day were last. Though receiving the same reward, "the kingdom of heaven", every man's work will be tried by fire. Even so "If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all" as every man's work that he has done will be tried of what sort it is.

Revelation 11:15-19

15 **And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.**

16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; **because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.**

18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

19 **And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament:** and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

1 Corinthians 3:9-15

9 **For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.**

10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.