

## ***Script – The Laborers in the Vineyard***

**Narrator:** Jesus told many stories. He told the people what the kingdom of heaven was like using stories or parables.

**Jesus:** The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard.

**Landowner:** [to himself] I'll go to the market early today and see if there are any people ready for work. The grapes in the vineyard need to be harvested quickly.

[**Landowner:** heading off to the market were there are a couple of people waiting around]

**Landowner:** [coming up to one of them] Do you need work today?

**Worker 1:** Yes.

**Worker 2:** How much will you pay us?

**Landowner:** I will give you each a denarius for the days work.

**Worker 1:** That is a fair wage. We will work for you.

**Worker 2:** Where is your vineyard?

**Narrator:** The Landowner [pointing down the road] sent the workers to his vineyard.

**Landowner:** [to himself] It is going to take more workers to get this job done. It is 9 o'clock, I'll go back to the market and see if there are other workers.

**Narrator:** So about 9 o'clock he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing.

**Landowner:** You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.

**Narrator:** The Landowner went out again at noon and found other workers for his vineyard.

**Landowner:** [to himself] There is still sunlight, and there is more work to do. It is about 3 o'clock, I'll go and see if there are other workers.

**Narrator:** So the Landowner went back to the market and found other workers.

**Landowner:** You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.

**Narrator:** The sun was getting low in the sky.

**Landowner:** [to himself] There is only about an hour left of daylight, I wonder if there are any others that can work? I will go and check.

**Narrator:** It was late in the day, but the **Landowner:** went back to the market and found others standing around.

**Landowner:** Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?

**Worker 3:** Because no one has hired us!

**Landowner:** You also go and work in my vineyard.

**Narrator:** Soon, the sun had set and the sky began to get dark.

**Landowner:** [to his foreman] Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.

[the workers get in line, beginning with the last one hired, then the ones hired at 3, then the ones at noon, then the ones at 9, then finally the workers hired at 6]

**Foreman:** One denarius. [motions to the next worker] Next.

**Narrator:** The Foreman gives each worker the same wage, one denarius.

**Worker 2:** [angry] We worked all day in the vineyard! We should get more!

**Worker 1:** [angry] One denarius? This is the same as you gave the worker who just worked one hour. We worked all day. We should get more because we worked more.

**Worker 2:** [still upset] These men who were hired last worked only one hour and you have made them equal to us.

**Worker 1:** [also upset] We did most of the work and in the heat of the day.

**Landowner:** Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?

**Worker 2:** Yes...but!

**Landowner:** Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?

**Jesus:** So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

The End