Matthew 20:1-16 NLT November 8, 2026

Parable of the Vineyard Workers

1 “For the Kingdom of Heaven is like the landowner
who went out early one morning to hire workers for
his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay the normal daily
wage and sent them out to work. 3 “At nine o’clock in
the morning he was passing through the marketplace
and saw some people standing around doing nothing.
4 So he hired them, telling them he would pay them
whatever was right at the end of the day.

5 So they went to work in the vineyard. At noon and
again at three o’clock he did the same thing. 6 “At
five o’clock that afternoon he was in town again and
saw some more people standing around. He asked
them, ‘Why haven’t you been working today?’ 7 “They
replied, ‘Because no one hired us.’ “The landowner
told them, ‘Then go out and join the others in my
vineyard.’ 8 “That evening he told the foreman to call
the workers in and pay them, beginning with the last
workers first. 9 When those hired at five o’clock were
paid, each received a full day’s wage. 10 When those
hired first came to get their pay, they assumed they
would receive more. But they, too, were paid a day’s
wage. 11 When they received their pay, they protested
to the owner, 12 ‘Those people worked only one hour,
and yet you’ve paid them just as much as you paid us
who worked all day in the scorching heat.’

13 “He answered one of them, ‘Friend, I haven’t been
unfair! Didn’t you agree to work all day for the usual
wage? 14 Take your money and go. I wanted to pay
this last worker the same as you. 15 Is it against the
law for me to do what I want with my money? Should
you be jealous because I am kind to others?’ 16 “So
those who are last now will be first then, and those
who are first will be last.”

Matthew 25:1-13

Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

1 “Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten
bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to
meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were
foolish, and five were wise. 3 The five who were
foolish didn’t take enough olive oil for their
lamps, 4 but the other five were wise enough to
take along extra oil. 5 When the bridegroom
was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell
asleep. 6 “At midnight they were roused by the
shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come
out and meet him!’

7 “All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their
lamps. 8 Then the five foolish ones asked the
others, ‘Please give us some of your oil because
our lamps are going out.’ 9 “But the others
replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go
to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’

10 “But while they were gone to buy oil, the
bridegroom came. Then those who were ready
went in with him to the marriage feast, and the
door was locked. 11 Later, when the other five
bridesmaids returned, they stood outside,
calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’
12 “But he called back, ‘Believe me, I don’t
know you!’ 13 “So you, too, must keep watch!
For you do not know the day or hour of my
return.