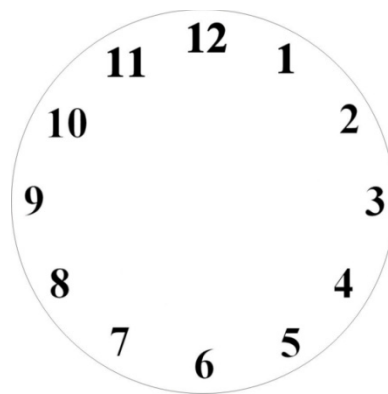


## *A note from Kathy*

*Matthew 20 is an interesting chapter. It helps us gain a better understanding of the concept that God deals with each of us as individuals. Our trouble often comes when we pass judgment on the way God extends his grace to others. Read this chapter at least twice before starting the study guide. Listen intently for God's voice.*

## *Observation*

1. Once again we see Jesus helping all who follow him to gain a greater understanding of the kingdom of heaven. What does he say the kingdom of heaven is like?
2. Notice the five different conversations as the landowner hired workers. The Jewish day was considered to have started at 6:00 am. Label the clock below with the different times this landowner went out and hired workers.



A denarius was a silver coin; it was the typical day's wage for a Roman soldier or a day laborer.

3. Was the landowner upfront and fair with the payment offered, or did the men try to negotiate for more money? (Verse 2)
4. Remember this is not a real event, but a parable. Since it is a parable, what is the truth Jesus was trying to help them see concerning the kingdom of God? Why do you believe he paid the men hired last before paying the ones who were hired early that morning?

5. How did the men who had been hired early in the morning react when they saw that the men hired in the last hour were paid the same as they were?
6. What are the two words found in verse 15 that describe the laborers and the landowner? Define these two words in order to gain a greater understanding of each one's character.
  - a.
  - b.
7. Where are Jesus and his disciples headed in verse 17?
8. What is the news Jesus shared for the third time with his twelve disciples in verses 17-19?
9. Do you believe the disciples were focused and listening as Jesus spoke to them of his future? Do you believe they understood what he was saying? (Please do not answer with yes or no only.)
10. What is the next event recorded? I totally get the mother of James and John wanting this honor for her sons. Jesus did not answer her, but addressed them with his response. What did he ask them?
11. What is the cup Jesus mentioned in verse 22? Look up Matthew 26:39, 42.
12. James and John answered "we can." What would their cup be?
13. When the other disciples heard this conversation, what was their response?
14. How did Jesus define true greatness in verses 27-28? Read Philippians 2:5-11.
15. In the midst of informing his disciples about his imminent death, then settling a dispute over who will sit on his right and his left in heaven, now two men are yelling trying to get Jesus' attention as he was leaving Jericho. What was their problem?
16. What did they call Jesus? What were they actually saying?
17. We see Jesus' divine love once again as he looks on these men with \_\_\_\_\_.
18. What did he do for them?

## *Application*

1. The parable of the workers in the vineyard has several key truths that we can find and share; list a few that you see. How will you apply some of them this week?
  - a.
  - b.
2. How would you have felt had you been one of the workers hired who had worked all day?
3. In this parable, the landowner addressed the grumblers by calling them “friend.” That is the word “*Hetairos*,” in the Greek, it means comrade or partner. Notice how he viewed himself as one who is linking arms with them. Are you able to look past other Christian’s frailties and flaws in order to do the work God has called us to do?
4. Matthew 20: 16 seems a bit strange and contrary to our modern culture. We are constantly bombarded by messages that tell us how important it is for us to feel good about ourselves and to “grab all the gusto you can;” after all, “you only go around once.” We are often reminded of the importance of “first come, first serve” and “have it your way.”

Jesus explained that in the world to come the values of this world will be reversed. Only those who have served others will be qualified to be “great” in heaven. How can we be the salt and light this world so desperately needs?
5. Jesus was very clear as to the pattern for all leaders in verses 27-28. What was that pattern? Do you believe your life is being lived out according to this pattern?
6. Jesus healed the two blind men even as he was about to face the greatest trial of his life. Do you speak life into others as you are walking through a tragedy or trial?
7. At the end of a very long and hard day, it can be difficult to remember to look on the crowds with compassion. Jot down some ideas of how we might be more successful at this when we are physically tired, emotionally drained, and spiritually famished.

It might help to start by identifying the crowd. Who is your crowd?

**Compassion** - inclined to show mercy; having a heart that is tender, and easily moved by the distresses, sufferings, wants and infirmities and weaknesses of others.