

# TAKE ACTION.

In this parable we see just how much God values kingdom work and the passion He has to involve His people. We may stand around the market-square because we think we don't have 'what it takes' or sometimes we just don't know how we fit into God's plan for the vineyard. But scripture reveals that the Master is looking for people to serve right up until the end of the Day. He is constantly calling us to be a part of what He's doing. There are 5 key elements that are helpful to think through as you begin to discern how God has shaped you to best contribute to His Kingdom. We have dubbed them the 5 things: they are...

- Kingdom Vision**
- Team**
- Plan**
- Ongoing Equipping**
- Coach**

For more on these check out, "Called To Kingdom Living!"

**CALLED TO BE A  
VIGNERON**  
VIGNERON (N.J.) — ONE WHO CULTIVATES A VINEYARD

God is always looking for workers to faithfully serve in His fields. **Who is going to cultivate the vineyard?** Matthew 20 illustrates this point well.

# MATTHEW 20:1-7

1 "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a vineyard master who went out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the workers on a wage of one denarius, [the standard daily wage,] he sent them off to his vineyard. 3 Then, on going out at about nine in the morning, he saw more men standing around in the market-square doing nothing, 4 and said to them, 'You go to the vineyard too -- I'll pay you a fair wage.' So they went. 5 At noon, and again around three in the afternoon, he did the same thing. 6 About an hour before sundown, he went out, found still others standing around, and asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day, doing nothing?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' 'You too,' he told them, 'go to the vineyard.'"

- Read over the verses again. How many times does the master go out looking for workers? What is significant about the master going out to hire workers multiple times?

Remember picking teams on the playground as a kid? Were you ever "picked last" or not picked at all? This passage has a similar feel to our 'playground' illustration. The workers hired at the beginning of the day were probably the strongest, most skilled, and equipped. The workers hired at the end of the day could have potentially been handicapped, lame, old, weak, sick, unskilled, etc. God's 'equal compensation' to all the workers displays how He values all people how He created them to contribute. And the greatest 'compensation' is really the reward of getting to work alongside the Master in His field!

**How does knowing your value and getting to work alongside Jesus motivate you to take action on your kingdom building responsibilities?**

We are all in search of purpose for our lives. It is so easy to believe this can be fulfilled in success or possessions, but sooner or later we realize there has to be more. This is where the Vineyard Master's invitation to serve is so powerful. There is great meaning found in doing our part to advance God's kingdom and this is not just for the pastor or the missionary or the full-time vocational Christian worker. It's for **EVERYONE!** We are all called to work in the vineyard.

- Though our assignments may be vastly different, our work in the field is uniquely significant. In what ways do we stand around the market-square and do nothing while the Master's vineyard is in need of cultivation?

In verse 12 the workers say that they "have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." This suggests the parable is set during the summer season which is a time of much growth and development in the life of a vine. Most grapes are harvested in the fall. It is interesting to note this fact to remind us that not all work in the Master's vineyard comes at the harvest. There are countless 'cultivating' jobs to be done while the grapes are yet unpicked.

**As you think about how God has created you, your time and talents, how do you see your self contributing to God's kingdom work? How do you see yourself serving in the Master's field at this season in your life and in the seasons to come?**

- What are some things that might hinder you from the specific work He has called you to? How might you move beyond those hindrances?