



The First Will Be Last

By Ken Terry on December 20, 2022

READING: Matthew 20

How many of us have been around the church world most of our lives? How many have served on committees, participated in groups and even served in leadership positions? Some of us may feel we have done it all and now we can coast and allow others to step up. My friends, this is "stinking thinking" on many levels. We may think what we have done in the past has granted us the privilege to be where we are today, but the Father has so much more for you to ACHIEVE in kingdom of God.

I want to share an experience I had in my former profession. I was privileged to lead an elite store in Florida. It was the highest performing store in the area. All of my leadership team was the best the company had to offer. One of my prime leaders was tasked with a job he felt someone else should perform due to his experience and job title. We had a good relationship and discussed his concern. I told him that it matters not what he had done or accomplished yesterday. The only thing that mattered is what he was doing right now. He looked at me in astonishment. I would imagine somewhat like the laborers looked at the master of the vineyard in our reading.

The laborers who had labored all day in the heat and sun were paid the same wages as the laborer's who had been there for a few hours, *"So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.' And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.'"* (Matthew 20:8-12 NKJV).

The point for all of us today is, as long as we draw breath in our bodies, we have the ability to make a difference in the kingdom of God. None of us has the luxury of resting on our laurels and reminiscing about things accomplished, places visited and cultures converted. None of us are complete until Jesus returns or calls us home. Let us, therefore, have the consciousness of Christ as we serve first and love continually.

Listen to these beautiful words of Jesus setting the bar for this level of service, *"So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many"* (Matthew 20:16,27-28 NKJV). And by the way, that leadership team member I mentioned earlier is now a corporate executive.

PRAYER: Our Father in the heavens, Jehovah God, thank You for guiding us in our reading today. Father, thank You for all you have revealed about serving. Father, please do not let any of us fall into the trap of self-aggrandizing. Help us, Father, to be humble and hungry for Your Word. Father, help us be the beggars, helping other beggars in search of the next piece of bread that may fall from the table. It is these crumbs we recognize as necessary for eternal life. Father, we ask all these things in the matchless name of Jesus, amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Matthew 21

Copyright © 2022 First Baptist Church, Fort Mill, SC, All rights reserved.

[Visit our website](#)

First Baptist Church | (803)547-2051 | 121 Monroe White St., Fort Mill, SC 29715 | fbcfm.com

First Baptist Church Fort Mill | 121 Monroe White St., Fort Mill, SC 29715

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by fbcfortmill@comporium.net powered by



Try email marketing for free today!