

Matthew 20: The Eleventh-Hour Call

Overview: The parable of Matthew 20 is generally understood as the parable of grace, all the laborers are paid the same regardless of how many hours they worked. The present study will, however, is to look deeper into the message of this parable “to sink the shaft deeper into the mine of truth” and discover who are the laborers at each timed interval.

Prayer Thought: *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 127.4

Scripture Reading: Matt. 20:1-8

- **Note:** All calls were made at 3 hour intervals, except for the last (the 11th hour call).

Whom does the householder and the laborers symbolize?

- **COL 396-97**—Householder: God the Father
- **Luke 10:1-2**—Laborers: the saints

What is the meaning of the vineyard and the marketplace?

- **COL 301**—Vineyard: the world, the place where the saints labor.
- **5 T 203**—Marketplace: the church

The Ancient Time Clock

- **John 11:9**—In the days of Christ time was regulated by sunset at twelve o’clock. Near the equator where the days and nights are continually equal, the sun sets at twelve and rises at twelve. Therefore, six o’clock would be noon in the light part (see top part of chart on p. 4), and six o’clock in the dark part would be midnight (bottom part of the chart). This is the kind of time Jesus used in the parable.

The first hour laborers, who were they?

- **COL 400**—The Jews (Israel of old) were the first called to the vineyard.
- **Verse 2, Ps. 105: 8-10**—they are the only ones with whom God has made an agreement (covenant).
- **COL 397**—to all the other laborers the Householder sent out saying, “Whatsoever is right that shall ye receive.”

When where the first laborers called into the vineyard?

- When the sun was rising (early in the morning)
- **Psalms 119:105**—the Bible is our spiritual sun or light.
- **GC preface, p. v, Hag. 2:5**—the Israelites were sent into the vineyard just when the spiritual sun (the Bible) was coming into existence.

What was the message given to ancient Israel?

- The sanctuary service—the ceremonial system.
- **GC 609** or **COL 127**—in each age there is a new development of truth.

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- The ceremonial system in connection with the sanctuary was a new or original truth. So must it be with the following calls.

The Third Hour Laborers: The early Christians

- **Mark 15:25; Acts 2:14, 15; Acts 13:46**—The message of the Jews met its fulfillment at the cross. A new call must arise somewhere around the crucifixion of Christ.
- The Gospel was the next new and original truth.
- **Matt. 28:19**—the Apostles were the next laborers. The lord called and sent them to the vineyard.
- **Mark 15:25**—Christ was providentially crucified at the *3rd hour*. The Apostles received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the *3rd hour* of the day.

The Sixth Hour Laborers: The Millerites, or First-day Adventists.

- The only new truth after the early Christian church was the message of the 2300 days and the second advent of Christ, proclaimed by William Miller and his associates.
- **Note:** The sixth hour laborers could not be the Protestant Reformers because their endeavors were purely to restore old down-trodden truths, not to reveal new ones.

The Ninth Hour Laborers: The S. D. A. Church

- The only movement with a freshly revealed truth after Miller and his co-laborers would be the S. D. A. church coming up after 1844 teaching the Judgment of the dead—the Three Angel’s Messages in their first proclamation.

The sixth and the ninth hour calls are closely related.

- **Verse 5**—Both calls or movements are connected. One ended (First-day Adventists) in 1844, the other (S. D. A.) began the same year.

The Eleventh Hour workers and their message: Faithful SDA’s who will proclaim the loud cry to the whole world.

- **John 9:4**—the 11th hour call is the last on record coming just one hour before sunset—the end of time.
- **A Call Within A Call**—the 11th hour call comes within the time period (3 hours) allotted to the Ninth hour workers, indicating that it is NOT another church, but rather a laymen’s movement .
- **5T 217; TM 86**—the work has gone astray, the finishing of the Gospel is delayed. Thus, another call had to be made just before sunset.
- If all the previous calls were new truths then the 11th hour call must also be a new unfolding of truth.
- Another message is to come into the church in order to finish the Gospel.

What is the Eleventh Hour Message?

- **6 T 406.4**—Here we see that the Third Angel’s message is to be followed by another angel who is to lighten the earth with its glory (Rev. 18).
- **Rev. 18:1-4**—This angel is not flying in the midst of heaven, but is come down.

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Therefore, it cannot be the same as the three angels of Rev. 14.

- **EW 277**—an additional message to the third angel's message.
- Points Of Emphasis:
 - i. Fourth angel gives '*power*' and '*force*' to the Third Angel's message.
 - ii. He unites his voice with the third.
 - iii. It prepares the people of God for the hour of temptation ahead. Without it (this angel) the church would not be ready for the time of trouble ahead.
 - iv. This message must be fearlessly proclaimed. This is not being done now. Therefore, this call is yet future.
 - v. It is an '*addition*' to the Third Angel's message. Therefore, this other angel is a message separate and apart from the third message, but will give power and force to it swelling it to a loud cry. It is a message which prepares the church for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Is the call to come out of Babylon being given today?

- **GC 389**—the fall of Babylon is not yet complete and she has not made all nations to drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Hence, the message and of Rev. 18 is still yet future.
- **GC 383 (1888 Edition)**—"The message of Revelation 14 announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt. Since this message follows the warning of the judgment, it must be given in the last days, therefore, it cannot refer to the Romish church, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries. Furthermore, in the eighteenth chapter of the Revelation in a message *which is yet future*, the people of God are called upon to come out of Babylon."

Who are the Eleventh Hour Workers?

- Faithful SDA's—the church purified, the 144,000.

Summary:

- The 11th hour message is the Loud Cry message of Revelation 18—the other angel that is to join the Third Angel's Message and give it "power and force."
- Without this "additional " message the church will not be able to complete its gospel mission.

Further Reading: *White House Recruiter, Shepherd's Rod, Vol. 2, pp. 222-237, Timely Greetings, Vol. 2, No. 43, pp. 3-15.*

