

The Vineyard Of The Lord

In two parables of Jesus, the parable of the laborers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16), and the parable of the two sons (Matthew 21:28-31), one point among many is that the kingdom of heaven is a place for work, not idleness. As we do our work in the vineyard of the Lord, we demonstrate God's wisdom and we glorify God (Ephesians 3:10-11, 21).

In keeping with the idea of a vineyard, we bear fruit for God (John 15:8; Romans 7:4). We bear fruit in many ways: 1) Brotherly love (John 15:12); 2) caring for the poor (Romans 15:26-28); 3) demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:16, 22-23); 4) abiding in Christ (John 15:5-7); 5) contributing to the work of the church (Philippians 4:15-17); 6) growing as a Christian (1 Peter 2:1-2); 7) "hiring" laborers into the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-9; Luke 10:2; John 4:35-38); and, 8) doing every good work (Colossians 1:10).

The reward at the end of the day for workers is a crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8). Peter expresses the reward as "*an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away*" (1 Peter 1:3-5). The "*crown of righteousness*" is also referred to as a "*crown of life*" (Revelation 2:10). Paul wrote, "*Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful*" (1 Corinthians 4:1-2). We had best remember that our work in this vineyard will be called into question on the judgment day, for the ones who are unfaithful are "*gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned*" (John 15:2, 6; cf. Matthew 25:41).

Kyle Campbell