



Cornerstone
CHURCH

Follow Jesus in the Stories He Told

The Heart of a Servant in the Kingdom of God

Pastor Mark Lehmann
Sunday, August 10, 2025

“For the Kingdom of Heaven is like the landowner who went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work. At nine o’clock in the morning he was passing through the marketplace and saw some people standing around doing nothing. So he hired them, telling them he would pay them whatever was right at the end of the day. So they went to work in the vineyard. At noon and again at three o’clock he did the same thing. At five o’clock that afternoon he was in town again and saw some more people standing around. He asked them, ‘Why haven’t you been working today?’ They replied, ‘Because no one hired us.’ The landowner told them, ‘Then go out and join the others in my vineyard.’ That evening he told the foreman to call the workers in and pay them, beginning with the last workers first. When those hired at five o’clock were paid, each received a full day’s wage. When those hired first came to get their pay, they assumed they would receive more. But they, too, were paid a day’s wage. When they received their pay, they protested to the owner, ‘Those people worked only one hour, and yet you’ve paid them just as much as you paid us who worked all day in the scorching heat.’ He answered one of them, ‘Friend, I haven’t been unfair! Didn’t you agree to work all day for the usual wage? Take your money and go. I wanted to pay this last worker the same as you. Is it against the law for me to do what I want with my money? Should you be jealous because I am kind to others?’ So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last.”

Matthew 20:1-16 NLT

“He answered one of them, ‘Friend, I haven’t been unfair! Didn’t you agree to work all day for the usual wage? Take your money and go. I wanted to pay this last worker the same as you. Is it against the law for me to do what I want with my money? Should you be jealous because I am kind to others?’

Matthew 20:13-15 NLT

Servants of God’s Kingdom Serve Because It’s Their Joy, Not for Recognition

“Serving Jesus is a joy and an honor. We miss God’s blessing and our role in His Kingdom when our first thought is what’s in it for me!”

Mark Lehmann

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you. Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? Won’t he rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”

Luke 17:5-10 NIV

“We don’t serve to earn God’s favor. We serve because we have already received it in countless ways. We’re not entitled to extra blessing for faithfulness: even our best works are simply our duty, done from a heart of love for our Master.”

Comparison Kills the Joy of Serving; Humility and Grace Bring More Joy

The Reward of Serving is Relationship

“True Religion is when you serve God to get nothing else but more of God.”

JD Greer

The greatest reward for any servant of God is not status, applause, or even earthly success—it is knowing the Master, working in His field, and hearing one day, “well done, good and faithful servant.”