

# Kids' Chronicle

## Jesus tells a parable

BY JOE SARNICOLA

When Jesus was asked about the kingdom of heaven, he often told a certain type of story called a parable to explain what he wanted to say. This is one of his parables.

The kingdom of heaven is like a farmer who did not have enough laborers when the day to pick the grapes arrived. So as the sun was just rising in the morning, the farmer went into the village to find men who were willing to work. When he saw some men drawing water from the well, he approached them.

"Do you men have work for today?" the farmer asked.

"We do not," they all answered.

So the farmer made an agreement with the men to work in his vineyard for a certain wage. But the farmer still did not have enough men to work in his field, and he did not want his crop to spoil. So he returned to the village at 9 o'clock. There he found men in the marketplace who were willing to work in his field. But still there were not enough men. The farmer returned at noon and at 3 o'clock, and each time he hired more workers.

He returned a last time at 5 o'clock, when he found some men sitting on a bench doing nothing.

"Why are you men not working?" the farmer asked.

"Because there is no work to be found," one of them said.

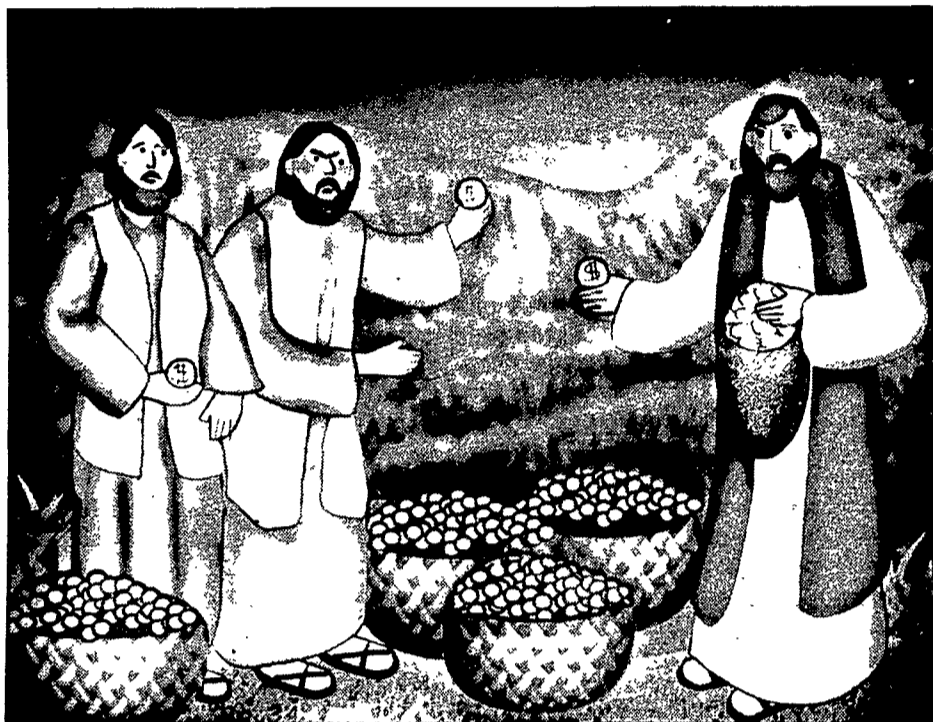


Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

"Work for me until dark," the farmer said. So the men followed him to his vineyard. The farmer was pleased because he now had enough men to pick his grapes and then they would be ready to be prepared for the market as jellies, juice, raisins and wine.

At the end of the day, the farmer told his foreman to have all of the workers line up to be paid. The first to arrive were the men who had started at 5 o'clock. Each man was paid three coins.

Next were the men who had started early in the morning, and the farmer paid them three coins also. This made the men angry.

"We picked your grapes from morning until night, under the hot sun, and yet you give us the same pay as men who worked only a short time!"

The farmer replied: "When I met you this morning, we agreed on a price for your work. Is that not what I paid you? It is my choice to pay my workers what I think is fair. Are you jealous because I am a generous man? Those who are first will become the last, and those who are last will become the first."

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Matthew 20

## Q&A

1. Why did the farmer go into town?
2. Why were some of the workers angry?

## Bible Accent

Although farming was a major occupation of many of the people who lived when Jesus walked the earth, there were many other trades that contributed to the world's economy.

Metalsmiths used gold, silver and copper to make money, decorations, weapons and tools. Carpenters — like St. Joseph and Jesus — used wood for furniture, buildings and boats. Cloth makers took wool from sheep, processed it by hand and then spun and dyed it in order to make clothing.

Potters would make bowls, urns and dishes out of clay that had been formed into shapes and fired. Masons would construct buildings from limestone blocks or from bricks made out of clay or mud. And jewelers used gold, silver, or ivory, and such valuable stones as rubies, emeralds and sapphires to make items for people who could afford them.

## St. Matthew

St. Matthew's profession was no more popular with the people 2,000 years ago than it is today. He was a tax collector. He was employed by the Romans, although he was a Jew.

Jesus first met St. Matthew when he was collecting money at one of the custom houses. Jesus said only two words to him: "Follow me." St. Matthew immediately left his position to become one of the first disciples of Jesus.

When St. Matthew, other tax collectors and other guests were having dinner with Jesus, some Pharisees, who were the religious law scholars of the day, saw them and showed their displeasure for Jesus and the people who were with him.

"Why does Jesus eat with tax collectors and sinners?" they asked. St. Matthew rose above the criticism he received and remained a follower of Jesus. His name is linked with the first Gospel. We honor him on Sept. 21.

## Puzzle

Identify the Bible characters with their titles, descriptions or occupations. Answers on page 11.

- |                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Deborah             | a. magician (Acts 8:9)            |
| _____ 2. Abner               | b. nurse (Genesis 35:8)           |
| _____ 3. Joseph of Arimathea | c. king (1 Samuel 11:15)          |
| _____ 4. Zechariah           | d. good shepherd (John 10:11)     |
| _____ 5. Jesus               | e. priest (Luke 1:5)              |
| _____ 6. Simon               | f. general (1 Samuel 14:50)       |
| _____ 7. Samson              | g. member of council (Mark 15:43) |
| _____ 8. Saul                | h. strong man (Judges 16:6)       |

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Last month's winner was **James Hallahan**, a sixth-grade student at Honeoye Falls-Lima Middle School. In response to the question **What is one of the problems in the world you would like to see solved, and why?** he wrote:

I would like to see people stop smoking. The reason I do not want anyone to smoke is because it is addictive and it stops your brain from working right. It also makes your teeth turn yellow and it makes you look older than you really are with wrinkled skin and breathing that is difficult. I would also like people to think about smoking and the consequences of it so they do not start. Since friends often get each other to start smoking, I will try to discourage my friends from starting.

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