

Lesson I.

THE LABORERS IN THE VINEYARD

July 5, 1914

Matthew 20 : 1-16—* Memory Verses, 6, 7.

Golden Text—He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.—Matthew 5 : 45 (Rev. Ver.).



1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man *that is* an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.

2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the market-place,

4 And said unto them ; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way.

5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise.

6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle ?

7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard ; and whatsoever is right, *that shall ye receive.*

8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them *their hire*, begin-

ning from the last unto the first.

9 And when they came that *were hired* about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.

10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more ; and they likewise received every man a penny.

11 And when they had received *it*, they murmured against the goodman of the house,

12 Saying, These last have wrought *but* one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.

13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong : didst not thou agree with me for a penny ?

14 Take *that thine is*, and go thy way : I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.

15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own ? Is thine eye *evil*, because I am good ?

16 So the last shall be first, and the first last : for many be called, but few chosen.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One day Jesus told a story something like this:

There was once a man who owned a beautiful vineyard. He loved his vineyard, and tended it carefully. When the time for gathering the grapes had come, there was so much fruit that the owner needed help. Very early one morning he went to the market place to hire laborers.

There he made an agreement with some men to pay them a penny a day, and they went to his vineyard to work.

After a while he went to the market place to find more helpers. He said to them, "Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you;" and these went also.

Twice again during the day the owner went to the market place and hired more helpers, for there was a great deal of work to be done.

At last, quite late in the afternoon, the owner of the vineyard, seeing that his work was still unfinished, went again to the market place and found some men still standing idle.

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.