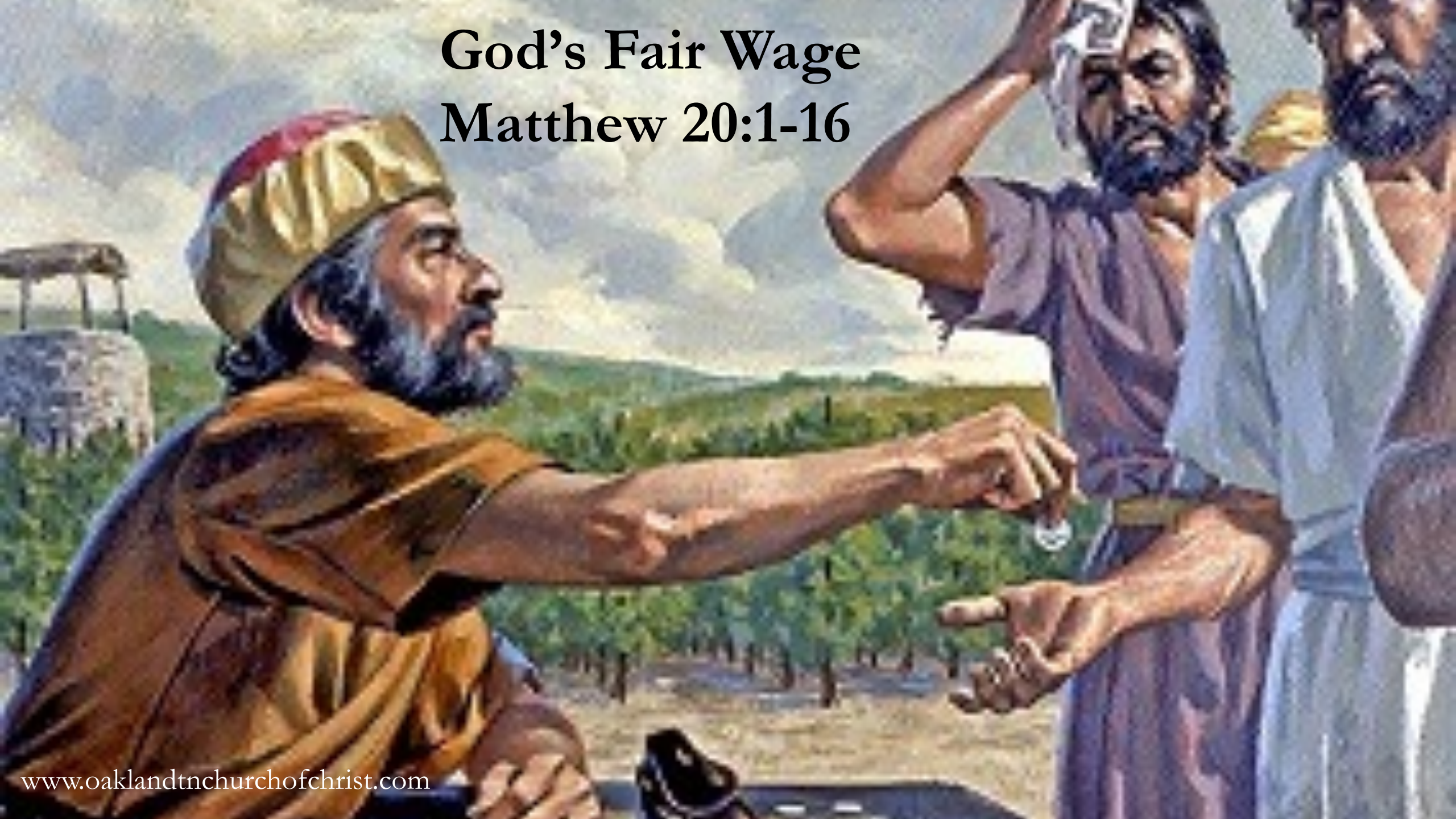


God's Fair Wage

Matthew 20:1-16



You Were Bought at a Price

- ◆ **Romans 5:8** - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- ◆ **1 Corinthians 7:23** - You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. (NKJV)
- ◆ **2 Corinthians 5:10** - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds *done* through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad. (NASB)

The Master Hiring Laborers

◆ **Matthew 20:1** - “For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

God Expects Workers

- ◆ God expects workers, not shirkers, in his kingdom.
- ◆ He hired laborers, not slackers.
- ◆ The place to serve God is in the true church established by Jesus Christ.
- ◆ **1 Peter 4:10** - ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace

4 Lessons From the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

1. Show Up
2. Accept the Master's Wage
3. Get to Work/Do the Work
4. Not How You Start – It is How You Finish

Show Up

◆ **Matthew 20:2-7** - ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.'

Show Up

- ◆ How can you expect to receive your just wages if you NEVER SHOW UP
- ◆ **Hebrews 10:24-25** - ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.



Accept the Master's Wage

- ◆ **Matthew 20:2** - ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.
- ◆ **Matthew 20:8** - ⁸ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.'

Old Testament Law

◈ **Deuteronomy 24:15** - You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the LORD, and you be guilty of sin.

God's Way is Supreme

◆ Isaiah 55:8-9:

- ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
- ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Get to Work/Do the Work

◆ **Matthew 20:9-10** - ⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius.

Faith and Work

- ◆ If we are to serve the Lord and work in his vineyard – the church – then our faith and deeds must go hand in hand.
- ◆ **James 2:14-17** - ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Get Active

- ◆ **Galatians 6:9-10** - ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- ◆ **James 2:26** - ²⁶ For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Not How You Start – It is How You Finish

- ◆ **Matthew 20:11-16** - ¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

Guard Against Bitterness

◆ **Hebrews 3:12-13** - ¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.