

Matthew's Gospel

Chapter 20



Denarius

What If WE Had Told the Parable?

The Logical Version:

Each worker would get paid exactly what he had earned (according to how long he had worked and how many grapes he had picked), not a penny more nor less.

The Tactful Version:

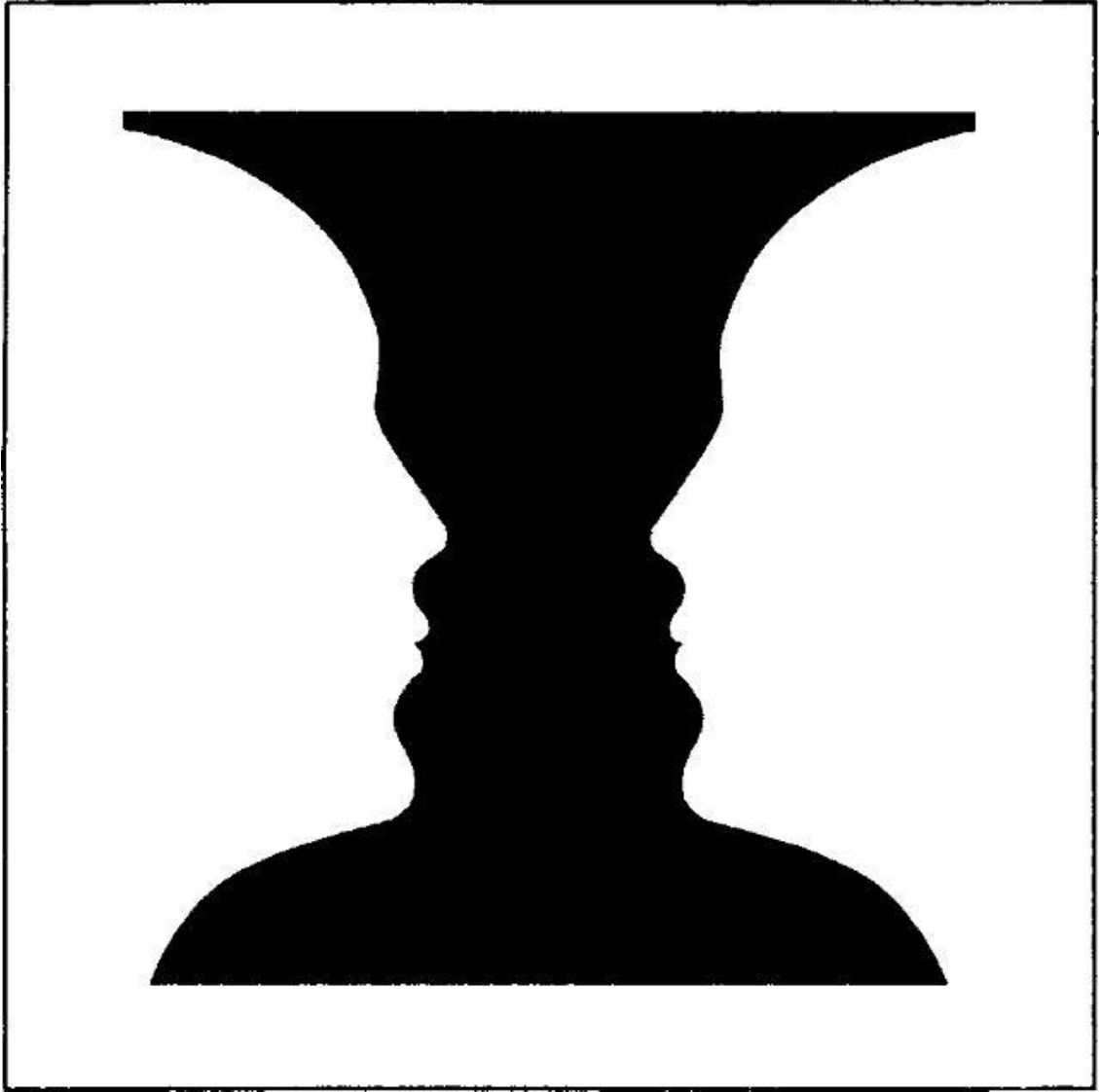
Pay each worker one denarius, but pay the morning workers first and send them away so their feelings won't be hurt when they see the temp workers being paid just as much.

The Extravagant Version:

Pay each worker 1,000 denarii then have a party!

The Socialist Version:

Don't pay the workers with money. Let them have grapes. Then tax their earnings.



The Two Questions:

1. **Is it not legal for me to do what I wish with what is my own?**

ANSWER: *It may be legal, but it isn't fair!*

(But, should others go hungry just because they were not hired when you were?)

2. **Is your eye evil because mine is good?**

Matthew 6:22-23

“The eye is the lamp of the body. So if you have a **good eye** [that is, if you are generous] your whole body will be full of light; but if you have an **evil eye** [if you are stingy] your whole body will be full of darkness. If, then, the light in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”

ANSWER: *No. But why should I work so long if I don't get paid more for it?*

(But, work is also its own reward. We were created for work.)

Ephesians 2:10 For we are of God's making, created in union with the Messiah Yeshua for a life of good works already prepared by God for us to do.

Q: Does this parable teach that everyone receives the same reward in the World to Come?

Revelation 22:12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man **according to what he has done.**"

1 Corinthians 3:8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages **according to his labor.**

Matthew 5:11-12 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for **your reward is great in heaven**, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The Four Keys:

1. The “Denarius” = *Chai Olam* (19:27-30)

2. The exalted are humbled. The humbled are exalted.

Matthew 23:12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Matthew 8:11 I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

3. We are ONE body.

Romans 12:4-5 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Messiah and individually members one of another.

1 Corinthians 10:17 Because there is **one bread**, we who are many are **one body**, for we all partake of the **one bread**.

1 Corinthians 12:12 For just as **the body is one** and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are **one body**, so it is with Messiah

Hebrews 11:39-40 And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that **apart from us they should not be made perfect**.

4. It is NOT about me. It is about the grand destiny of which I am privileged to be a part.

Luke 10:38-42 Now as they went on their way, Yeshua entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Master's feet and listened to His teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to Him and said, "Master, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Master answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Q: What should Martha's response have been?