Introduction:

Jesus was talking to the rich young ruler about salvation, while the disciples were looking on.

They saw him go away, and Peter ask,

Matthew 19:27-30

Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? [28] And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. [29] And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. [30] But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.

Peter asks we have given up everything to follow you what shall we have?
So Jesus answered the disciples and Peter their spokesman in this parable about service, not salvation.

1. The Story

2. The Application

A. Laborers are needed.

1. Jesus has work to be done.

Illustration: 6 billion people in the world & most need to hear the gospel.

2. The problem is not lack of work, but lack laborers.

3. The harvest is ready

John 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

4. The world at this moment is at its greatest need.

B. Looking at others will always be harmful. (vs. 8-12)
(Mat 20:8-12 KJV) "So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning 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."

1. Those hired first were paid last.
   a. They watched what those in front of them were paid.
   b. They began to murmur and complain.

2. We need to realize that everyone does not have the same opportunity.
   a. Opportunity brings responsibility.
   b. Ability brings accountability.
c. It's not equal giving, but equal sacrifice.

C. Lord is trustworthy (vs. 12-16)

(Mat 20:12-16 KJV) "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."

1. We need to give the Lord our all.

2. What shall we have in doing so?

Rom 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?