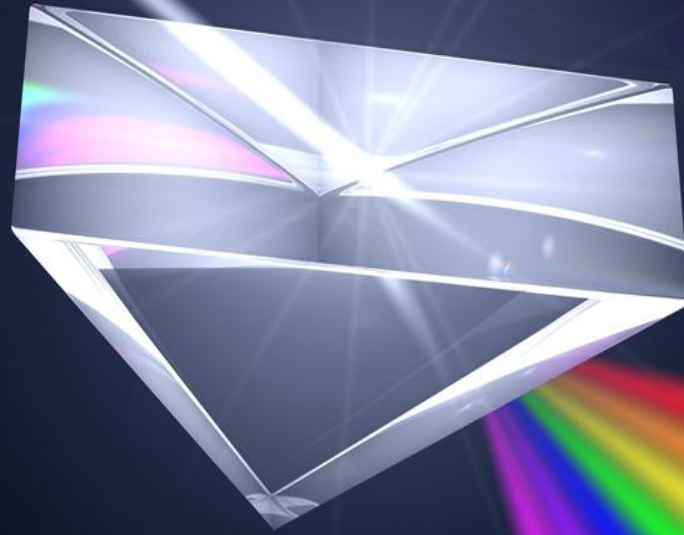
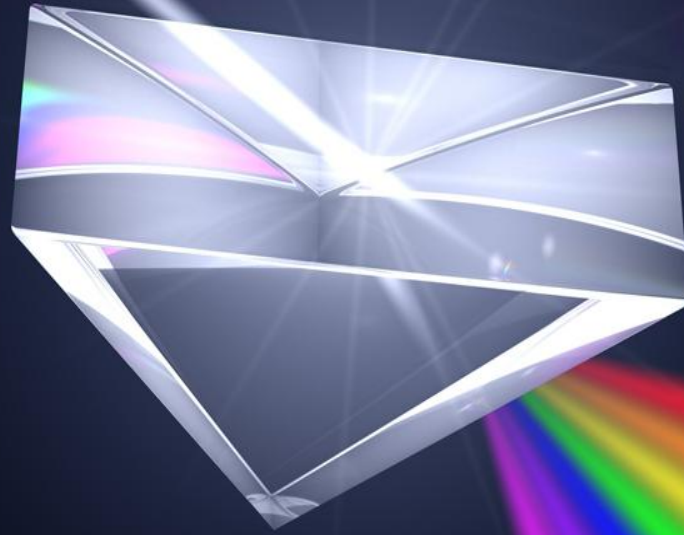


The Parables
OF JESUS CHRIST



par·a·ble(s)

An earthly story that
reveals a spiritual truth



**This is God's Word for my life in
this Place and at this Time. Today
I am a new creation in Christ, I
am God's very own, and I KNOW
He has a purpose for my life.**

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’

So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

“‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they **expected** to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go.’

I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Matthew 20:1-16



Glimpses of a New Reality

The Parable asks
“Are you ready for Grace?”

Beware: There is a subtle slide from a heart full of gratitude into a critical spirit of entitlement.



Life comes at God's Invitation

He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing? Because no one has hired us,' they answered." v6



God dispenses gifts not wages

“You have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.” v12

Sinners and Saints eat at the same table in the Kingdom



The New Reality of GRACE

What separates gratitude from pride: ENTITLEMENT

What separates heaven from hell: ENTITLEMENT

“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”



“When we replace a sense of service and gratitude with a sense of entitlement and expectation, we quickly see the demise of our relationships, society, and economy.”

Steve Maraboli

