

## Yes, I Did

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Matthew 20:9, "And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. <sup>10</sup>But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. <sup>11</sup>And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? <sup>14</sup>Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee."

What a charge that the men made against the ruler of the vineyard. "You made them equal unto us," they said. The master basically says, "Yes, I did." It was his money to give as he saw fit, and to bless others with as he wanted to do.

Those who came early were not cheated out of anything, they received what they had agreed to work for. What they complained about was that they thought that the latecomers didn't deserve the same amount as them. This is a lesson on the grace of God.

Some people can say that they never committed great sins and have no terrible sins to repent of. There are those who can honestly say that they have never touched liquor or drugs, never stolen anything, or done a lot of sinful things. That is great and many of us wish that we could say that, but we can't. Like the various workers hired by the master in the story we may have come late into the master's vineyard. The Lord in his mercy, forgives and blesses all who come unto him.

There is not a different level of heaven for the saved according to what they did in life. God loves us all and each one is precious in his sight. The sinner who comes to the Lord late in life is just as saved as the person who went to church and lived for the Lord all his life. This is grace and is more wonderful than we can say. The workers in the story didn't deserve the

gift that they were given and no one can say that we deserve the love and forgiveness of God. Love, mercy, and forgiveness, not deserved but given in the love of God is true Grace.

Perhaps there are those who, like the first workers that Jesus spoke about, feel that those who come to the Lord after years in sin do not deserve to be treated like those who tried to walk with God early in life. If anyone feels that way he needs to remember that God said, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." None of us is without sin, some have just sinned more than others, but it is by the mercy and grace of God that any of us are saved.

If we have the right spirit then we are happy to see anyone come to the Lord, no matter how they have lived. Could anyone think that they have the right to judge someone else? That would be like saying that he was better than the other person, because in his eyes he wasn't as bad. This is another time that I'm glad that God is judge and not man. David asked to be judged by God rather than by man. He knew that God would be more merciful, and he is.

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**DAVID'S fighting courage**

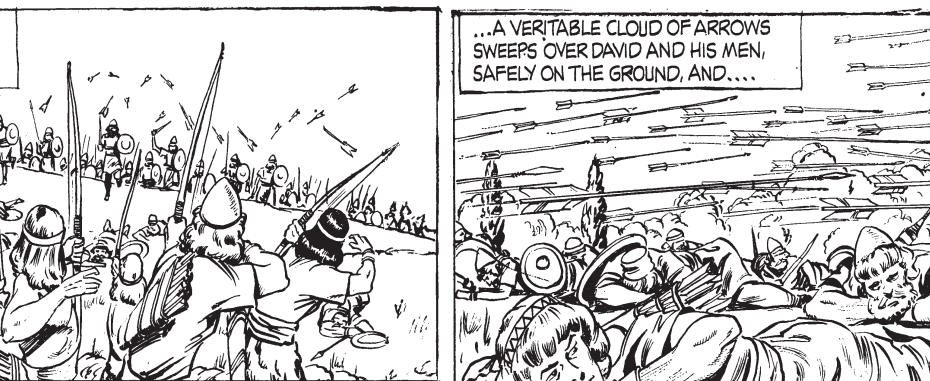
THE PHILISTINE SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN CHASING DAVID AND HIS MEN IN HIGH GLEE—LITTLE KNOWING THAT THEY ARE BEING LED SWIFTLY INTO A TRAP—SUDDENLY....



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