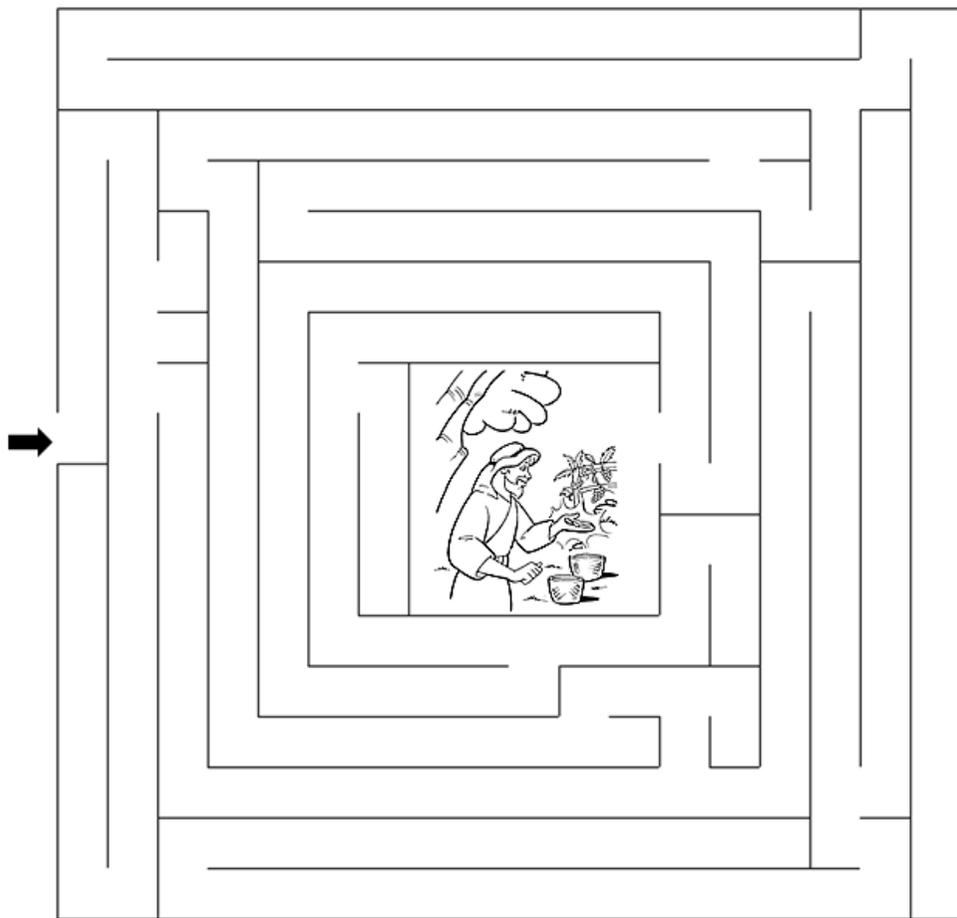


**Parable of Vineyard Workers
Maze**



When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These men 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.'

Matthew 20:11-12 (NIV)

WELCOME

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard
(Matthew 20:13-15)

Is God Fair?



CHRIST CHURCH, LILLE
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Parable of the Workers

"It's not fair!" Have you ever said those words? Be honest, now! Maybe your brother or sister was invited to go to the movies with a friend and you weren't invited. What was your reaction? "That's not fair! Why can't I go too?"

Perhaps you came home from school looking forward to watching your favorite show on TV and a family member or guardian says, "You can't watch TV until you have finished your homework."

"Aw that's not fair! By the time I finish my homework my favorite show will be over!"

When we say, "It's not fair!" it usually means that something is not going our way or we want something that someone else has.

In our Bible lesson today, Jesus told a story about a landowner who was hiring men to work in his vineyard. He hired some of them early in the morning, some in the middle of the day, and some he hired just before quitting time.

When it was time to pay the workers, he paid them all the same. Can you guess what the workers who were hired early in the morning said? Your right, they cried out, "Hey! That's not fair! You paid the workers who worked only one hour the same as those of us who worked all day."

The owner of the vineyard said, "I am not being unfair to you. I paid you what I agreed to pay you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Are you jealous because I am generous?"

The question for today is this: "Is God fair?" Of course he is! But do you know what else? The Bible tells us that he is more than fair, the Bible tells us that "God is love." Does God love us because we love him?" No, the Bible says, "This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." Wow! That's not fair—that's love.

If we got what was fair, none of us would get to heaven. I'm glad that God doesn't give me what is fair, but gives me his love and grace, in spite of what I deserve!

Let's Pray: Dear Father, we are thankful that you love us and forgive us without keeping count. Help us to love and forgive others as you have forgiven us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

