

and work in Father's vineyard with Jesus.

Invite Spirit to open your eyes and heart to the opportunities that will come your way this week. What wonderful work has Jesus for you; liberating people from sin, healing the sick, casting out demons, sharing Jesus with those who don't know him yet.

Wonderfully, you get to work in Jesus vineyard this week.

Here's a challenge that I'm working on. John Wimber said he would ask people; 'how are you'. They'd

say OK. Then he'd ask, no, I really would like to know how you are going. Then whatever they shared with him, he'd offer to pray for them.

It might be; 'I've got a headache'. If John's invitation was accepted for pray, he would take their head in his hands and pray for healing. I'm assuming if the person has a celebration he'd give thanks.

This week I pray you hear in your heart

and mind Jesus' invitation to work in his vineyard. Grab that invitation and ask when, where and how. Take that first thought and then go and do it, joining Jesus in his celebration of life.

Jesus certainly wants you doing the stuff he does, doing it with him.

20 September 2020

WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD

Matthew 20:1-16



As I read this parable I wondered what kind of work do you do in a vineyard. Then it dawned on me, the owner of the vineyard was hiring people to work. To work in his vineyard.

These are not spectators. Obviously there is a big difference between spectators and workers.

The owner of the vineyard didn't get people to go and admire his vines, or taste the wine. They weren't asked to have a pleasant Sunday afternoon. There is a huge difference between being a spectator or a worker.

The owner went to find workers.

Has Jesus asked you to go and work in his vineyard?

Most of the time when I've read this parable I've focused on how much each person was paid, and if it is fair to pay everyone the same. I focused on the equality of the 'first being last and the last being first'.

How much would have the owner paid spectators? I know how much you'd pay a spectator if you were an employer. I'm sure you'd pay them as much as I would; nothing. Actually I'd be tempted to charge them for the privilege of watching.

Has Jesus asked you to go and work in his vineyard?

Sure has. That's part of the 'Good News', you're not a spectator, you're a doer. You're authorised and empowered to work for the king in his kingdom.

When Pastor Peter Steicke was at Christ Church he told a brief story about John Wimber, the founder of the Vineyard Church. The phrase that stuck in my mind was; 'Everyone got to do the stuff'.

So I went onto youtube to see if I could find something about John Wimber, and I ran across a clip where he was talking about his first impressions of what would happen in a service.

(John Wimber – Doin' the Stuff
<https://www.youtube.com/>

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

watch?
time_continue=167&v=wTep5jzjhu8&feature=emb_logo)

John mentioned that as he read the New Testament he fell in love with Jesus, and all that he did. And he wanted to do the stuff; as he put it. John wanted to do the stuff he saw Jesus doing.

John had never been to a church service, but he imagined that you'd gather Sunday morning, divvy up the areas to go to, and then everyone would go out to heal a few, cast out a few demons, win a few for Christ before lunch. He thought you'd go out and do it.

Or using Jesus image that we have today; he imagined Jesus was calling him to go and work in his vineyard.

But then he was told; this is my

paraphrase. 'You don't have to go out and do it, you just have to believe it was done once!'

John couldn't understand; you never got to go and do the things Jesus did. And then this comment of his smacked me between the eyes.

'I joined up to do the stuff. Didn't you?'

John said; 'When I worked for the devil, he let me do his stuff!'

Let that sink in.

'When I worked for the devil, he let me do his stuff. When I came to work for Jesus, they wouldn't let me do his stuff!'

Let that sink in!

John said; 'I joined up to do the stuff. Didn't you?'

Jesus went out early to hire workers for his vineyard.

Not because he needs people to pick his grapes, but he wants us to join him in doing his stuff. Jesus passion is that we are actively involved, and certainly not spectators.

Jesus didn't give his life so that we could sit on the sidelines and watch. What a waste of life.

Jesus gave his life so that you could join him in doing the stuff; in seeking and saving the lost, destroying the work of the enemy.

Jesus has wonderfully hired you to work in the vineyard; loving the people you meet with his supernatural love, that they get a taste of him as you give them a drink of water, share your time, pray with them about what's happening in their lives, as you

introduce them to Jesus.

Jesus has hired you to bring his hope into this world as you proclaim his kingdom. What a time to be bringing hope to people. I think people are ripe for hope, a hope that offers life in the face of death.

People have been facing death for the better part of the year, and we have Jesus, the author and creator of hope. The virus doesn't win; we have hope. You're not alone in this battle; we have hope.

When growing up I was always reminded that one of the great treasures we have is the gift of 'confession and absolution'. We have a God, in Jesus, who forgives, who heals the broken hearted. Jesus isn't after spectators but wonderfully has authorised and empowered us to forgive as he forgives

us; totally undeserved, and he takes the initiative.

If Jesus had to wait for me to make the first move; guess what, he'd still be waiting. Jesus took his Father's invitation to go and work in his vineyard, he didn't wait for the vines to invite him in. Jesus

Today Jesus is hiring...

always takes the initiative, even when it is uncomfortable, even when he's in the right and we are in the wrong. Which when you think about it, is always!

Today Jesus is hiring workers for his vineyard. What a wonderful offer; you don't waste your life. You won't waste this week, just waiting around, just filling in the day to feel useful doing what you'll lose anyway.

No, we have the wonderful gift of working with Jesus. He's hired us. Jesus has authorised and empowered you to go and work in his power and authority.

When you meet a person feeling guilty, in Jesus' name, you can set them free.

You can listen to their confession, to their desire for Jesus' healing.

And then you get to proclaim it, then and there; "You are forgiven. You

are loved. Jesus heals you." And by Jesus power and authority that's what happens.

Jesus passion is that you work in his vineyard; saying what he says, doing what he does. That's the way Jesus lives; saying what he hears from his Father, doing what he sees his Father doing. And we've been re-created in Jesus image. You have been invited to go