In Matthew 19:27, Peter had said, “We have left everything to follow you.” He then asked, “What will there be for us?”

Peter’s question shows there are some things he still needs to learn about the kingdom.

ILLUS.: “If we consider the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desire not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us. We are like ignorant children who want to continue making mud pies in a slum because we cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a vacation at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” – C. S. Lewis

Kingdom

1. THE KINGDOM IS LIKE BEING A DAY LABORER (1-2)

11 The LORD said to Moses, “In the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.” And in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. 15 When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat."
This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Each one is to gather as much as he needs. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.’” 17 The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. 18 And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little. Each one gathered as much as he needed.

Then Moses said to them, "No one is to keep any of it until morning." 20 However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell.

Each morning everyone gathered as much as he needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away. On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much – two omers for each person.

Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any." Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none.

God provides for my daily need: Not too little; not too much; always just right.

Kingdom living is subsistence existence. In the kingdom, we are always dependent on him. That will never change.

2. THE KINGDOM IS LIKE BEING PUT TO WORK (3-7)
The vineyard owner hires men who are doing nothing to work in his vineyard – at four different times during the 12-hour workday. That’s a little strange, especially the hiring at the 11th hour.

These workers represent the people in God’s kingdom: at best, day laborers; at worst, passed over and desperate.

In the parable’s terms, God takes us from “doing nothing” to make us workers in “his vineyard.”

In the kingdom, everybody counts.

In Matthew 19:30 Jesus said: “But many who are first will be last.” In 20:16, he says, “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” The firsts and lasts all blur together.
The all-day workers don’t complain about their wages. They’re upset because they wanted to be superior.

Life in the kingdom isn’t about finishing first or last. It’s about refusing to keep score.

4. THE KINGDOM IS LIKE THE ECONOMICS OF GRACE (13-15)

Traditional Capitalism
• You have two cows.
• You sell one and buy a bull.
• Your herd multiplies, and the economy grows.
• You sell them and retire on the income.

A French Corporation
• You have two cows.
• You go on strike because you want three cows.

A German Corporation
• You have two cows.
• You reengineer them so they live for 100 years, eat once a month, and milk themselves.
An Italian Corporation
• You have two cows, but you don’t know where they are.
• So you break for lunch.

A Swiss Corporation
• You have 5000 cows, none of which belong to you.
• You charge others for storing them.

An Indian Corporation
• You have two cows.
• You worship them.

An American Corporation
• You have two cows.
• You sell three cows to your publicly listed company, using letters of credit opened by your brother-in-law at the bank, then execute a debt/equity swap with an associated general offer so that you get four cows back, with a tax exemption for five cows.

The milk rights of six cows are transferred via an intermediary to a Cayman Island company secretly owned by the majority shareholder who sells the rights to seven cows back to your listed company. The annual report says the company owns eight cows, with an option on one more.
• You sell one cow, leaving you with nine cows. No balance sheet provided with the release.

In the kingdom, no one receives less than they deserve. Because of God’s generosity, all of us receive far more.
CONCLUSION

In all the world, there is no place like the kingdom

- *Kingdom living is subsistence existence. In the kingdom, we are always dependent on God.*
- *In the kingdom, God takes us from doing nothing to make us workers in his vineyard. He makes all of us count.*
- *The kingdom is not about finishing first. It is not about finishing last. It’s about not keeping score.*
- *In the kingdom, God is God and he is fair; but he’s also gracious. No one receives less than they deserve. To the contrary, we all receive far more.*