

# Called to Serve



Dear

This editorial is taken from Daniel Pel's last presentation of our North Island camp last month as a sample for you, to taste the blessings from the camp. Daniel spoke on the parable of the workers in the vineyard, combined with the parable of the talents.

"For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard." —Matthew 20:1

This parable begins with the kingdom of heaven being like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the labourers for a penny a day and sent them to their work in his vineyard. In the setting of the day, it was a very common scene. Often labourers, or day workers, would wait at the market place in order to be employed for that day. They did not really have contracts like we have today to secure their employment.

Their method of work was on a day to day basis. If a landowner had work to be accomplished, they would go to the local market place and find a queue of people, waiting for a job for the day.

The typical working day for those times, consisted of twelve hours. In his dialogue with the workers, this landowner said to them, "If you will work for me this day, I will give you a penny." —verse 2. A day's labour for a penny was a very reasonable wage. Now they start working from the very beginning of the day, probably being around 6.00am and would work until 6.00pm. They knew their reward to be a penny.

While the day progressed, the landowner saw that the workload was larger than the existing hired workers could accomplish in the day, so about the third hour, he went back to the market place to hire more workers. This time though, he didn't mention the figure of reward, he said, "whatsoever is right I will give you." —verse 4

A few hours further into the day, the landowner realises that he needed still more workers, so he goes back to the market place at the sixth hour, and again at the ninth.

Now there is a big difference when you pay attention to this parable between the first hour workers and those hired later in the day. The first hour workers agree to work for a penny for the whole day. When he goes out and invites the third and sixth and ninth hour workers, he merely says to them, "I will give you what is right."

*"For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard."*

—Matthew 20:1





*"You have been bought with a price and all that you have and are is to be used to the glory of God and for the good of your fellow men... The transforming power of Christ's grace moulds the one who gives himself to God's service."*

—Maranatha, p.100



This would be a very strange way of approaching a contract in today's employment market. Just to put it into perspective for our day, if we went for a job interview and the employer is explaining the position and you are working through the negotiation process. You become quite excited about the job and it looks like you may be the right person and the employer thinks you are too, and you are getting to the end of the agreement. And the employer says, "Oh, by the way, regarding wages, "I will give you what is right."

How would that come across to you? Maybe you would immediately think, is right for him, or is it right for me? A true answer would be as to how well you knew the employer.

But in the parable, the meaning is deeper than a first century scenario. The landlord is the picture of God who has the vineyard and he is inviting us to work in His vineyard.

The gospel is to spread to all nations before the end comes and God is inviting workers into His vineyard, He is inviting you and I to participate in that work.

### Called to Serve

Back in Genesis, God called Abraham. He told Abraham that out of him would come a great nation. He told him that through his descendants, He would bless the whole world and that others would receive blessings.

So the first to be invited to work in the vineyard of God, as a nation under God, were the Hebrews. If they would follow the Lord, He would reward them. It was clear what kind of expectation God had upon Abraham's children.

Just so, like in the parable, the first workers knew that at the end of the day, they would receive a penny. Now as time progresses, we can take the parable and stretch it over earth's history. Just like at the beginning, God called the Hebrews and gave them a work to do, then through the succeeding generations, all had a work to do in God's great vineyard.

When Jesus was physically here, He called His twelve disciples to go out, and they surely did go. Just a few years later, Paul went and raised up churches among the Gentiles, and this generated more people who were invited to come into God's vineyard to labour for the spreading of the gospel.

"And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive."—Matthew 20:6,7

At the eleventh hour, the landowner saw the work was going to be too much for the present workers, so he again goes to the market place and finds more workers waiting for work. He says to those waiting, 'you go also to my vineyard and I will give you what is right.'

Now to focus on our day, we are not living in the first hour, nor the third, nor the sixth or the ninth hour. Figuratively speaking, we are in the eleventh hour. God is calling each one of us to work in His vineyard in this last hour of earth's history and know with confidence we can enter into the agreement He is offering, because He will give what is right.

Ask yourself questions, "How can I be more involved in my local church? How can I be involved in ministry? While we are admonished to get into God's work, there are facets of ministry where we can work alone, but in many lines of ministry working with others accomplishes more than a lone worker. You will never regret engaging in a work for our God. Work in a work that will last for eternity. Make friends for eternity.

"So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. When they lined up, and the eleventh hour workers received every man a penny.



"But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, 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.'

"But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen." —Matthew 20:8-16

## Rewards Distributed

So at the end of the working day, the landowner calls the workers to distribute their reward. Some had been there 12 hours, some nine hours, some six, some three and some only one hour. They barely got going and the day was already done.

As the wages were distributed, the parable takes an interesting twist. The landowner began from the last to the first in verse 8. So beginning at the eleventh hour workers, he gave them their penny. With those that had worked for the twelve hours saw this, they would have been enthused that if those working for one hour received a penny, they would have done some maths and worked out their income would be twelve pennies.

But when those full day workers received their wages, they were surprised and a bit deflated when only their one penny was given them. They complained against the landowner, "These last men have worked only one hour and you have made them equal with us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day. The landowner answered, "Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen."

There is more going on here than meets the eye. The eleventh hour workers receive the penny and the first hour workers receive a penny, surely that just is not fair.

Well, to think about it in the spiritual sense, the gospel is not fair, in the sense of we do not deserve it. None of us deserve to be saved. It is only by God's grace and mercy that any of us are saved. We are wretched miserable, poor, blind and naked. None of us have any claim to heaven.

If those first hour workers had been occupied with the finished work, they would be rejoicing over the eleventh hour workers that had come, because it was not about comparing, who did more who did less, it was about finishing the work and completing the work of the day.

Far too often churches, ministries and people compete to have the most popular church or ministry, gain the most finances, have the best speakers, the best buildings, who gets the most likes on internet. Friends, we are living in a time when God is calling every one of us. We need to unite in this work. Don't let the devil cause division among us, just for the sake of dividing us. Unite in the work together. Rejoice over any ministry, or any church, or any individual that is reaching souls for the kingdom. If faithful, we will all experience eternal life with Jesus Christ our Lord and the call is for us to take an active step to be in that number when the roll is called up yonder. So now, let's work on a contract basis and expect our wages. We can work gladly and rest in the fact that what our Lord gives us will be right.

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells the parable of the talents. After Jesus returned to heaven, He promised He will come again to receive His people, that where He is, there we may be also (John 14:1-3), but in the meantime, what is happening on this earth?

Now lets look at another parable. In Matthew 25 is recorded the parable of the talents.

*"There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God."*

—Maranatha, p.103





*"All that we are, all the talents and capabilities we possess, are the Lord's to be consecrated to His service. When we give ourselves wholly to Him, Christ, with all the treasures of heaven, gives Himself to us. We obtain a pearl of great price."*

—Maranatha, p.72



"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey." —Matthew 25:14,15

Look at some important truths from this important parable. The kingdom of heaven is like a man travelling to a far county. Jesus is telling about His own travels. He calls on His servants, His disciples, and delivers gifts to them. To one he gave five gifts (talents), to another two, and to another one.

He gave to each according to their ability and immediately he went on a journey. This parable fits right into our end times on earth. We need to remember Matthew 24 continues into Matthew 25 and is all end-time prophecies. In Matthew 24, Jesus talked about the signs with earthquakes, pestilences, wars, rumours of wars, love of many would grow cold. He then said to endure to the end while the gospel was spread to the world.

### Spiritual Gifts

Whenever we read about spiritual gifts being given in the Bible, no one is left out. Everyone receives a talent—an opportunity. In Matthew 25, it varies as to how these gifts are used. As you read through the parable, one receives five and goes and multiplies it to make five more. The one that receives the two, multiplies his two and makes two more. The one that gets one, goes and buries his talent, because he is afraid of His Master.

Upon the return of the Master, he who received the one talent retrieved his talent to present it back to his Master, and said, Lord I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, gathering where you have not gathered seed, and I was afraid and I went and hid your talent in the ground for safe keeping, knowing you would come back for it. Here it is, I give you what is yours.

Now, of course, our heavenly Father is not a hard and harsh father, He is a loving Father and our picture of God is very important when it comes to how we use our talents. Sadly too many have the same understanding and view of God as this man that received the one talent in the parable. They envisage God as exacting and callous. Other see God as those who received five or two talents. They will work with joy, their reward will be a crown of glory.

The same reward is promised to the first, the third, the sixth, the ninth, and the eleventh hour workers. All faithful workers will receive the same reward—the reward of eternal life within the environment of a pure heaven and a pure earth.

Step out in faith, enter into the vineyard, and use the talents that God has graciously bestowed upon you. Pour your life into something that matters for life and for eternity. "I was shown the saints' reward, the immortal inheritance, and saw that those who had endured the most for the truth's sake will not think they have had a hard time, but will count heaven cheap enough.." —Testimonies for the Church, vol.1,p.381

Too many believe 'I am just not good enough.' They are perplexed, they are discouraged, they fall into despair and they think, 'I just have this one talent, what does it matter any way? So I'll just bury it,' and yet the whole time this parable is like screaming to us that it does matter, the one talent does matter.

It matters to the point when you look at the spiritual gifts that are mentioned in I Corinthians 12. The church of God is likened unto a body with all its various members. We have the hands, the arms, the legs, the tongue and eyes, they are all various members of the one body. They work in unison for the building up of God's church and the proclamation of the gospel.

And then Paul says in I Corinthians 12 that what happens when one member is affected, the whole body is affected. If we have a broken finger, or burnt a hand, it doesn't just affect that part of the body, it affects the whole body, your thinking and mood.

The same way with God's church. It is a body and all need to work together to have a



fully functioning church. That is why there is a call in Scripture for the eleventh-hour worker. The talents that we have, all are to be used to the glory of God, whether five, two or one. This is an important call that we have received in Scripture and it is a call for such a time as this.

"To his servants, Christ commits His goods. Something to be put to use for Him. He gives to every man his work, not some, not most, everyone has work. Each has his place in the eternal plan of heaven. Each is to work in close cooperation for the salvation of souls. Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God." —Christ's Object Lessons, p.326

When we dedicate ourselves to use our talents for the work of God, we will quickly find that being an eleventh-hour worker and increasing our talents, is not really a sacrifice, it is a privilege.

### Joy, Not a Sacrifice

David Livingstone, the great pioneer missionary to Africa spoke to students at Cambridge University. As he reflected back on the life of travelling through the continent of Africa, getting malaria multiple times to the point of almost dying. He said the following. "For my own part, I never ceased to rejoice that God had appointed me to such an office. People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my time in Africa. Is it a sacrifice which brings its own blessed rewards in healthful activities? The consciousness of doing good, the peace of mind and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter. Away with the word sacrifice, say rather it is a privilege. Anxiety, sickness, suffering or danger now and then, with the foregoing of the common conveniences and the charities of life may make us pause and cause the spirit to waver, but let this all be for a moment. All these are nothing when compared with the glory that shall be revealed in and for us. I never made a sacrifice."

We can enter into this work. It is a privilege. It is a joy. Yes, there will be difficulties, it doesn't mean there will not be sleepless nights. It doesn't mean there will not be challenges and heartache, but through it all, in light of eternity, we will see that we are privileged to partake in this enormous work and partake in a work that angels would desire to do.

If we are going to accept the call from the Land-owner and go and work in His vineyard, exercising our talents to the full, we will all receive our penny, friends. And it will be better than a penny, it will be better than owning a mansion with its own gardens and vineyards on this earth. Our reward will be an inheritance of eternal proportions.

Don't miss out. Make a concerted effort to use all the capabilities you have to further the gospel message in this world. Whether we are a part of it or not, it will go to all the world. "And this gospel of the kingdom, shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." —Matthew 24:14. Come now friends, join God's mighty eleventh hour army and let's make it through together.

While I did not write or compile this editorial, I want to include my name at this conclusion, not for credit to the article, that belongs to Daniel Pel, but more that we are still here and want to reach to you personally with this newsletter.

*Doug Husley*

*Angela and I want to take this opportunity to express our heart-felt thanks and appreciation to all those who have given so much of themselves, their support and their generosity to us over the recent damage and loss to our property. We are just so grateful for the love, warmth and support of our own children and to our spiritual family. Please know it has been gratefully received as we replace the necessary items lost. Thank you sincerely again, we wish all God's very best to you each and every one of you.*

*"It is not safe to be occasional Christians. We must be Christlike in our actions all the time. Then, through grace, we are safe for time and eternity."*

*—Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, p.487*

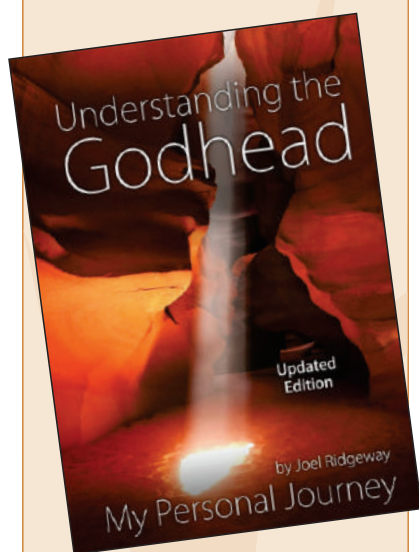




## For the Young

### Understanding the Godhead

Joel Ridgeway



There is so much confusion over who God is...What is the truth?

The author experienced some unease with his beliefs and chose to search out more thoroughly the Truth for himself.

From a staunch anti-trinitarian to a confirmed believer in the Eternal Heavenly Trio...

This book is about Joel's journey to discover the truth God lead him to and the evidence to back it up. It is his prayer that this work will help you gain a clearer understanding of this high and holy topic.

**Paperback**  
\$23.50 +p&p

### In the Office

After a brief holiday period we are well under way into 2024 and the beginning of the year is a busy time for us with our North Island camp included.



**The Autumn Leaves Team at the end of 2023:** From left: Vincent, Jack, Estelle, Malcolm, Cherie, Korina, Lena, Tracy, Peter, Damon, Angela, Doug, Vitalii.

**New Stock:** Over the holiday period we had 8 pallets of goods come in from various suppliers. These included bulk Bibles, health books and outreach books as well as a wide variety of other stock items which replenish stock and include many new items. Along with camps, processing these shipments has kept the office busy for the start of the year. Some new items are advertised with this newsletter and many more will follow. We continue to see an increased interest and sales of health-related items.



**Free offers:** We have a monthly free offer advertised primarily on social media. This has proved an efficient way to reach more people with less cost. Many items are placed in the hand of people who are specifically requesting them and so there is less waste than bulk distribution and or printed flyers and newspaper/magazine advertising. We still use these avenues to reach people also and all have their benefits. We have noticed a trend of interest in offers that include items assisting Bible study and personal devotion. You can help this project by liking and sharing the posts if you see them online (this draws more attention to them) or contributing to a fund we have set aside to cover the cost of books and postage.

**Videos:** Each Friday we also release a video to our YouTube channel. These may be a broadcast edited version of a camp meeting sermon or an entirely new production. Subscribe to our channel (autumnleavesnz) to watch and share these videos.

**Print jobs:** Our print equipment is also kept busy both with items we print for ourselves and also jobs for other people. We love to assist others in achieving their varied forms of ministry and have been printing flyers, booklets, calendars and other resources. Be in touch if you have a project we may be able to help you with.

### Projects

**Building Project:** A little but steady progress has been made since our last update purely from small regular contributions. Thank you!

### Funding Progress

\$98k to raise Raised so far \$1,491,472.64



Events

**Summer Camp:** Our North Island Summer camp was a blessing with all accommodation booked out and many people challenged for the year ahead.

This year we were also able to livestream the messages. In the past this has not been possible due to unstable internet connections, but thanks to Starlink we were able to get a reliable and strong signal. This benefits many more people who cannot attend in person. This report we received on the last day perhaps sums it up nicely:



*[We] would personally like to thank you and everyone involved in the current camp. We were unable to attend as God has blessed us with an incredibly busy season... We have however joined you online where possible - we have laughed, cried, been inspired and revived - thank you so much! As you wrap up camp this morning, may you know your work has been uplifting and greatly appreciated.*

The streams of the messages are still available on our YouTube channel and recordings are also available on flashdrive or DVD.

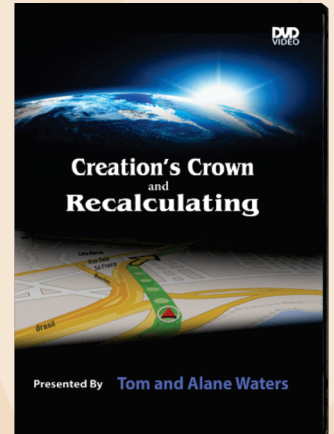
**South Island Camp:** In the past few years we have had a South Island 'camp' as a virtual live event but this year we have decided to trial an in-person family camp at Easter weekend. This gives the opportunity for fellowship and reconnection that more people can attend. This will be a little different to our usual camps with more of a practical, family focus. See back page for details.

**Friday Night Live:** We have plans for our popular Friday Night Live events with devotion and singing on the last Friday evening of February, May, August and November. Join us in person in the studio or online as we reconnect throughout the year.



Creation's Crown & Recalculating

Tom & Alane Waters



Two part series on DVD to call you to a deeper personal time with God and inspire you to "remember the Sabbath" and how God has a chosen the path for our lives and will form circumstances to bring us back to His better way.

\$15.00 +p&p

Clearance Items

Just a few items which are very discounted because we have excess stock!

**Is Your Church on Life Support** Rudy Hall Paperback was \$15.00 **\$10.00**  
 IYCOL | Churches in almost every denomination are losing members and losing life. This book shows how the right tools can transform a dying church into a thriving church.

**Divided** The Leclerc Brothers DVD was \$20.00 **\$16.50**  
 D-DIVID | Follows a young Christian filmmaker as he seeks answers to what has led his generation away from church and how to embrace the discipleship model that God prescribes in His Word. 10 available.

**No Measure** Annie Buell CD was \$30.00 **\$24.00**  
 CDNME | Gentle and uplifting music with a heartfelt message played and sung by Annie Buell. CD with vocal and guitar. Listen to samples on our webshop. 3 available.

**You Ask, God Answers** Erwin R Gane Paperback was \$20.70 **\$16.00**  
 YAGAN | This important book addresses vital questions on salvation. Immortality of the soul, Marian apparitions, predestination, judgment, and the issues surrounding God's law. Just 2 available.

**The Great Second Advent Movement** J N Loughborough MP3 CD was \$22.00 **\$12.00**  
 MP3GS | Audio book. By request of Ellen White, Loughborough wrote the history of the advent movement. Your heart will be revived by the engaging narrative of this eye-witness account. 3 available.

**Mary Magdalene Story** Jim Papas CD was \$23.50 **\$10.00**  
 CDMMS | A heart-warming story in a Job-like Christian allegorical style, this dramatized audio book speaks volumes about how God's love. Especially for young women in the valley of decision. 2 available.





*"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."*

—John Piper

## South Island Camp



28 March - 1 April 2024  
Hanmer Springs Forest Camp

Over Easter Autumn Leaves will be running a interactive family-focused camp in Hanmer Springs, New Zealand. The purpose of this camp is to encourage and uplift families and all those in attendance. The camp ground is in a secluded country location amid farmland and forest near the alpine village of Hanmer Springs in North Canterbury. There will be some programs specifically for adults and children but also a number of combined worships and activities to create a family atmosphere and focus on practical aspects of the Christian life.

- Morning and Evening worships
- Workshops
- Tasty Meals
- Bible Classes
- Family Focused Events
- Nature Walks & Activities
- And more...

Speakers for this camp include:

**Doug Hurley:** Founder of Autumn Leaves and involved with ministry locally for 40 years. He has a real burden for connecting with people, to share the good news of the gospel.



Doug Hurley

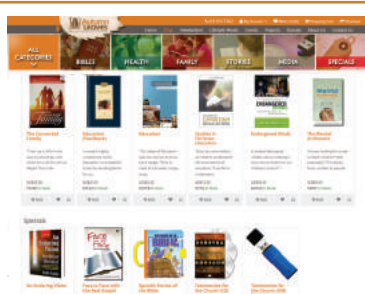
**Elvis Placer:** Elvis is a writer, researcher and editor living in Australia. He speaks on topics including religious history, end-time events, health and lifestyle, bringing the Bible to life, and sharing about living a life with Christ.



Elvis Placer

For more information and to apply to attend visit:

[www.autumnleaves.co.nz/events](http://www.autumnleaves.co.nz/events)



## Shop Online

Visit our online shop for over 1000 items. This is an easy and effective way to buy or donate.

Categories include: Bibles, Study Aids, Bible Teachings, Stories, Nature and Science, Spirit of Prophecy, Family, Homeschooling, Children, Health, Media, Outreach, Foreign Languages, Donations and Second Hand items.

This newsletter is also available electronically and online.

[www.autumnleaves.co.nz/shop](http://www.autumnleaves.co.nz/shop)



[facebook.com/autumnleavesnz](https://facebook.com/autumnleavesnz)



[youtube.com/autumnleavesnz](https://youtube.com/autumnleavesnz)

Find us online!



The Leaflet is the newsletter of Autumn Leaves NZ Limited, a registered charitable company, with the purpose of scattering God's message of truth like the leaves of autumn.



**Autumn Leaves NZ Ltd**  
PO Box 654  
Rangiora 7440  
New Zealand

28 Southbrook Road, Rangiora 7440

[office@autumnleaves.co.nz](mailto:office@autumnleaves.co.nz)

**Phone** 03 313 7762  
(from overseas) +64 3 313 7762

[www.autumnleaves.co.nz](http://www.autumnleaves.co.nz)

### Find us on social media

[www.facebook.com/autumnleavesnz](https://www.facebook.com/autumnleavesnz)  
[www.youtube.com/autumnleavesnz](https://www.youtube.com/autumnleavesnz)

Bank accounts:

NZ **01 0877 0014329 00**  
AUST BSB **014 507** ACCNT **4865 93335**

Payments & donations can also be made via New Zealand or foreign cheque, or credit card.

**Donations** are tax deductible in New Zealand. We appreciate the contributions given which enable this charity to continue to serve you and the community.

