

A script from



## “Parable of the Worker”

by  
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- What** In this modern-day retelling of The Parable of the Workers, Stan is upset to learn that three people who have been working there far less time than he has are earning the same amount as him. A great setup for a sermon about God’s goodness, mercy, and provision.  
**Themes:** Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, God’s goodness, God’s mercy, God’s provision
- Who** Mike  
Stan  
Jessica  
John  
Boss
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** Clipboard  
Table  
Paper  
Pen  
Clock  
4 envelopes with checks inside
- Why** Matthew 20:1-16
- How** Actors should interact naturally and keep the tempo so that the plot doesn’t drag.
- Time** Approximately 5 minutes

*A table is sitting center stage. On the table is a clock which reads 5:00PM, a clipboard, a pen, and 4 envelopes. **Mike** enters the stage and walks up to the table and glances at the clock.*

**Mike:** My two favorite times...quitting time and payday!

*He picks up the clipboard and signs it. Then, he sifts through the envelopes until he finds his name. He opens the envelope and smiles down at his paycheck.*

*Guess I'm not going to have to wait after all! (Whistling or humming "The Wedding March" and continuing to smile at his check.)*

***Stan** enters the stage, walks to the table, picks up the clipboard, and signs it. He picks up his paycheck and then notices **Mike**.*

**Stan:** Hey, Mike! You seem awfully cheery. Big plans for the weekend or just glad it's Friday?

**Mike:** *(looking up from paycheck as if just realizing **Stan** has arrived)* Hi, Stan. Actually, I do have big plans! I'm so excited. I'm going to ask Gina to marry me!

**Stan:** That's great! So you're finally getting the ring? I know you've been saving for a while.

**Mike:** Seems like forever, but you helping me get this job has been the best thing that's ever happened to me...outside of Gina of course! It would have been years before I could afford to buy her that ring if I had stayed at Stinky's Second-Hand Flush. Working at that used toilet factory was awful. I still have nightmares about the plunger costume I had to wear and then the smell... *(becomes pensive and shudders)*. Well, let's just say this place is great!

**Stan:** I told you that you would like it here.

**Mike:** Like it? I love it! *(Kisses his paycheck)* Our Boss is so generous. I never thought my paycheck would look like this.

**Stan:** Yeah, he is a good Boss! Soon you'll be making 6 figures like me. Welcome to the big time—

**Mike:** *(sheepish)* Well, not that we should compare paychecks, but I AM making 6 figures. That's what I'm talking about. What a great Boss!

**Stan:** What do you mean? I've been working here for 5 years. You can't already be making that much!

**Mike:** *(embarrassed and holding check close to his chest)* Well, I—

*Mike stops talking abruptly as Jessica enters the stage. Mike and Stan watch Jessica, but she does not notice them at first as she walks to the clipboard, signs, and picks up her envelope. She opens the envelope, smiles widely, and hugs the envelope.*

**Jessica:** *(talking to herself)* My Boss is awesome.

**Stan:** *(irritable and sarcastic)* Yeah, that's just what we were talking about.

**Jessica:** *(looks at Mike and Stan as if first noticing them)* Oh! Hi, guys. What's the problem?

**Stan:** Well, it appears that you can be working here for 5 years and make about the same as someone who started a year ago.

**Jessica:** Well, what's the big deal? It's still a generous amount, right?

**Stan:** That's beside the point.

**Mike:** Look. Don't be like that, Stan—

**Stan:** *(interrupting)* Oh, you don't think you would feel the same way. Jessica, how long have you been working here?

**Jessica:** *(uncomfortable)* About 3 weeks, I guess.

**Stan:** And how much was your paycheck for this week?

**Jessica:** Well, that's kind of private information, don't you think?

**Stan:** I'm trying to make a point.

**Jessica:** *(sighs)* Okay.

*Shows her check to Stan and Mike. Mike looks incredulous while Stan watches Mike's reaction with satisfaction.*

**Mike:** That's...that's how much I made this week.

**Stan:** Me, too. See how it feels?

**Mike:** *(sputtering)* But...but.

**Jessica:** *(still uncomfortable)* Well, I know it seems unfair, but when I signed on, that's how much the Boss hired me for and I did have some experience—

*Jessica stops talking when John, reading a magazine, walks on stage. He doesn't notice the others watching him sign the clipboard and pick up his paycheck. He opens the envelope and smiles widely as he looks at the check inside.*

**John:** Wow! That guy is so generous!

**Jessica:** Ummm...excuse me. (*John looks up startled to find Stan, Jessica, and Mike staring at him*) Who are you?

**John:** Oh. Hi! Sorry, my name is John. I just got hired. You must work here, too. Don't we have a great boss!?

**Mike:** (*off-hand*) Yeah, great. (*Pointedly*) John, when exactly did you start?

**John:** (*excited*) You are not going to believe this, but just about 2 hours ago. I was pounding the pavement looking for work and this man just came up to me and asked if I needed a job. I said "yes", and look! I already have a paycheck.

**Stan:** About that paycheck...does it look about like this one? (*Shows him his own paycheck*).

**John:** (*uncomfortable, scratching his head in confusion*) As a matter of fact, it does. Did you all start today, too?

**Mike, Jessica, and Stan:** (*yelling*) No!

*John jumps back, startled. The other three workers start to complain and argue together.*

**Jessica:** This is so unfair!

**Mike:** Yeah, I can't believe this! I've been working way longer than you or him!

**Stan:** (*towards Mike*) You!? I've been here the longest and I'm earning the same as someone who started 2 hours ago!

*The Boss enters the stage smiling and whistling, unaware of Mike, Stan, and Jessica's irritation.*

**Boss:** Hi everyone! What a great work week! You guys are the best! You earned every penny. John, it's good to have you aboard! (*Noticing their frowns*) Is something wrong?

**Stan:** (*irritated and confrontational*) Yeah, there is. I started here 5 years ago and I'm making the same as a guy (*gesturing to John*) who started 2 hours ago.

**Mike:** Yeah, and I should at least be making more than Jessica and John. I've been here longer than them.

**Jessica:** *(a little less sure of her argument)* And I think that 3 weeks is longer than 2 hours...umm...Sir.

**Boss:** I see. Well, folks, are you earning what I promised you when I hired you?

*Mike, Stan, and Jessica look slightly sheepish. They respond with affirmatives simultaneously (i.e. "yeah, but..." and "sure Sir" etc).*

**Boss:** Aren't I allowed to pay people as much as I wish with my own money?

**All:** *(sighing and nodding reluctantly)* Yes, Sir.

**Boss:** Good. Okay then. Have a good weekend and I'll see you Monday...that is unless you'd rather go somewhere else. I hear that Stinky's is hiring.

*Mike, Stan, Jessica, and John collectively shudder and then look at one another. They smile and nod slowly as if coming to a conclusion.*

**Stan:** Sir, we'll all see you on Monday!

*Lights down.*