

## **SPIRITUAL TASK—NO THOUGHT OF REWARD** (Matt 20)

*By the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley*

**Story** The Lord tells the parable of the landowner who went out at 6 am, 9 am, noon, 3pm and 5 pm to find workers for his vineyard. They all agreed to the same wage. At the end of the day those hired first expected more and grumbled at what they received. The Landowner made it clear that he had done no wrong and is allowed to do what he wanted with his own things.

**Meaning** This story is about how we begin our spiritual life with the thought of “what is my reward?” It also pictures a progression from that attitude to one of giving with no thought of reward. The first hired had to work though the heat of the day (the difficulty of this attitude) and those hired last had a pretty easy day of work (joy of living with the attitude of no thought of reward for yourself).

**Task** This week when you do nice or kind things for others attempt to think only of how this will be helpful to that person or how they might enjoy what you are giving. If thoughts of reward show up, recognize them and ask the Lord to help you let go of them. Refocus your attention on the joy your efforts might give to others, and keep on giving.