

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a petty bourgeois capitalist who went out into the social milieu to instigate incendiary “exploitation of the working classes for his greed-wracked, monopolised productivity-base.

2 “Now when this mad-dog fascist had terrified the proletariat into subservient slavery, ^abeing in league with all the other upper-handed, profiteering, power-hungry ¹gentry, and having sole control of the means of agricultural production, he intimidated them into his vineyard.

3 “And this hangman went ¹prowling around at the third hour, and saw other oppressed workers who were unable to find their rightful employment because of the grossly unequal distribution of wealth,

4 “and he commanded them with chauvinistic fervour, ‘Go into the vineyard or you will never work again; and I will pay you whatever I maliciously choose to.’ ^aAnd they had no ¹option but to go.

5 “And the ^ahungry hyena went stalking and devouring the proletariat at the sixth and the ninth hour, and did the same injustice to others.

6 ^a“And about the eleventh hour the complacent capitalist pig went rummaging around with his vile snout until he found even more from among the ever-present, starving ¹masses. And he violently accosted them: ‘Why have you been sabotaging my productivity ²quota and jeopardising my profits by loitering here all day?’

1 ^a[2 Thess. 3:10]

2 ^a[Psalm 22:16; Eccl. 5:8] ¹Emasculated men

3 ¹*skulking*

4 ^a[Prov 28:19-22] ¹Lit. *alternative*

5 ^a[Psalm 35:21; Ezek. 22:27; Zeph. 3:3]

6 ^a[Matt. 23:15] ¹Gr. *poloi* ²NU omits *quota*

7 ^a[Isaiah 5:7; Luke 16:21] ^b[Job 19:7] ^c[Prov. 18:23] ¹NU omits the rest of v. 7.

8 ^a[Luke 22:3; John 13:27] ^b[James 5:4]

10 ^a[Luke 10:7; Lev. 19:13; Mal. 3:5]

11 ^a[Psalms 36:7; 119:121; Isaiah 10:3; Luke 16:22-23] ^b[Prov. 10:16; 11:28; Jer. 17:11; 51:13; Mark 10:24] ^c[Job 8:3; 34:12; 36:17; Acts 2:44] ^d[Matt. 5:2; Luke 6:20; Rev 21:1-7] ¹*redoubtable*

7 “The devalued workers replied to the fat feudal lord, ‘Because we have become a mere commodity, “suffering increasing alienation as the dialectical processes lead to a more centralised power-base in the dominant class. We find that while production in the vineyard is socialised, its ownership is not. The goods are worth more than our wages, and you, ^bbeing the effective owner of our livelihoods, have not deemed to hire us.’ The malignant parasite said to them, ‘Go and do a day’s work in the space of one hour, ¹and I will ‘insult you later’.

8 ^a“So when the fateful evening had come, the bourgeois bigot directed his lackey-henchman, saying, ‘Call the filthy scum and give them all just enough to keep them alive so that I can ^bexploit them again tomorrow’.

9 “And when those came who were sandbagged about the eleventh hour, they each received a bowl of gruel.

10 “But when the first came, ^athey supposed they would receive more; but were likewise paid only one bowl of gruel.

11 “So after they had received it, they rose up in ¹glorious ^amass-revolution against the ^btyrannical minority, and formed a proletarian, labour-union-based organisation of society, ‘redistributing the wealth and instituting common ownership of the means of production. This dictatorship of the proletariat eventually gave way to a ^dtrue communist society that was free from bourgeois oppression and class antagonism: ‘From each according to their ability, and to each according to their needs.’” Amen.