

## MATHEW 20:06–07 CALL, PURPOSE, DECISION

*“About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ ‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’” **Mathew 20:06-07***

The final call is the last call of God to a man – it is the eleventh hour call. Note what happens with the persons who wait until the eleventh hour.

1. God strongly rebukes them, much more forcibly than any of the others: “Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?” There is no excuse for such behaviour.
2. They excuse themselves: no one has hired us. Such is not the case; they lie, deceiving their own hearts.
3. God shows grace despite their deceptive excuse: He issues a forceful call and a promise of a just wage.

But note something: nothing is said about how many responded. Just think. How many actually would respond to go out for just one hour’s work? How many would be willing to trust after rejecting four other offers during a single day? Realistically, not many would respond.

Three very practical things militate against a person who waits until the eleventh hour to accept God’s call.

1. A man does not often know when the eleventh hour is. Few know when they are to die, much less when God shall call for the last time.
2. A man in the eleventh hour has little time to serve. A man who has failed to capture an opportunity that has passed tends to accuse and condemn himself. He senses unworthiness. There is little likelihood that he will sense God’s call to the point of responding.
3. A man in the eleventh hour who has rejected call after call is hard, very hard. There is little softness and sensitivity left to respond to God’s call – no matter how forceful.

**Mat 22:3** *“He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.”*

**John 5:40** *“Yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”*

**Rom 10:21** *But concerning Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people.”*

**Jer 7:13** *While you were doing all these things, declares the LORD, I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen; I called you, but you did not answer.*

**Hosea 9:17** *My God will reject them because they have not obeyed him; they will be wanderers among the nations. □*