

## For the Love of an Imperative Verb Matthew 20:1-16

*The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A, RCL*

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said] “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also **go** [ὑπάγετε, **hypágete**] into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also **go** [ὑπάγετε, **hypágete**] into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘**Call** [κάλεσον, **káleson**] the laborers and **give** [ἀπόδος, **apódos**] them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>**Take** [ἄρσον, **âron**] what belongs to you and **go** [ὑπάγε, **hýpage**]; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” [NRSV89]

**20:4**

ὑπάγετε, **hypágete**; *vb: pres act imperative 2<sup>nd</sup> pers pl from ὑπάγω:*

translations: **go** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Albright & Mann, Filson], also **id** [IAdNT]

**20:7**

ὑπάγετε, **hypágete**; *vb: pres act imperative 2<sup>nd</sup> pers pl from ὑπάγω:*

translations: **go** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Albright & Mann, Filson], also **id** [IAdNT]

20:8

κάλεσον, **káleson**; *vb: aor act imperative 2<sup>nd</sup> pers sg* from καλέω:

translations: **call** [NRSV89, ESV, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Albright & Mann, Filson], also **summon** [NAB], **llama** [IAdNT]

ἀπόδος, **apódos**; *vb: 2<sup>nd</sup> aor act imperative 2<sup>nd</sup> pers sg* from ἀποδίδομι:

translations: **give** [NRSV89, NAB, NGEINT, NKJV, NRSVue; Albright & Mann], also **pay** [ESV, NIV11, NJB; Filson], **paga** [IAdNT]

20:14

ἄρον, **âron**; *vb: aor act imperative 2<sup>nd</sup> pers sg* from ἄιρω:

translations: **take** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Albright & Mann, Filson], also **toma** [IAdNT]

Albright & Mann: "There is no appeal against God's use of what is his." [p. 237.]

ὑπάγετε, **hypágete**; *vb: pres act imperative 2<sup>nd</sup> pers pl* from ὑπάγω:

translations: **go** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Albright & Mann], also **depart** [Filson], **vete** [IAdNT]

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