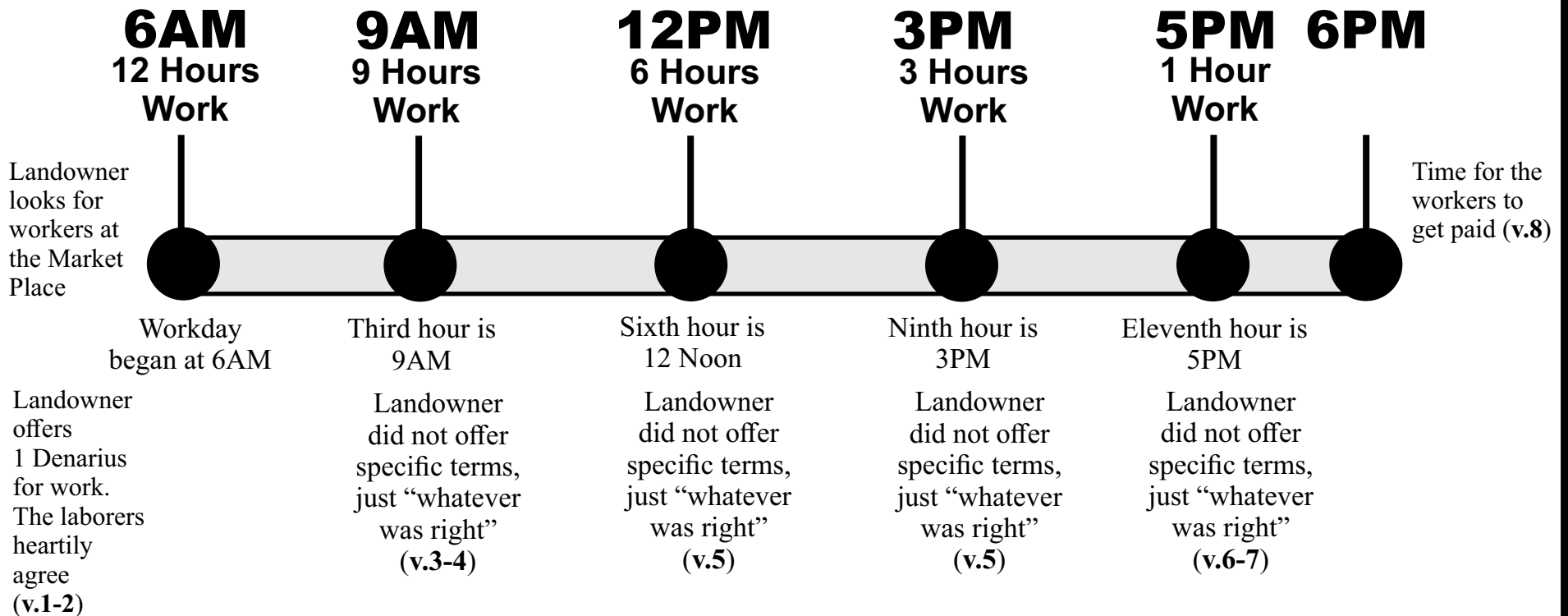


LABORERS IN THE VINEYARD — Mt.20:1-16

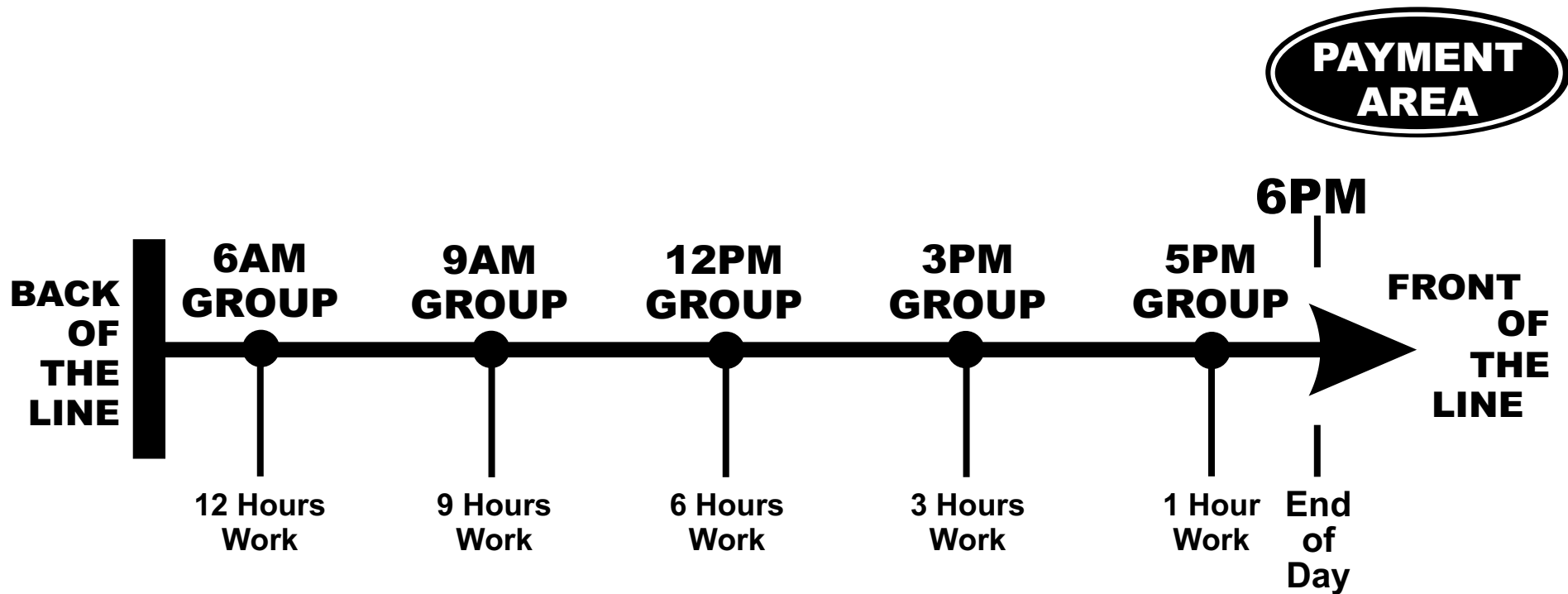


IS GRACE FAIR?

- Landowner instructs the foreman to pay the workers in the reverse order they were hired (v.8).
- The reverse order would be 5PM, 3PM, 12PM, 9AM, 6AM group (v.9).
- Those who worked the least amount of time received a denarius (v.9). They were filled with gratitude.
- It was likely the first men hired (at 6AM) thought they would get more than the denarius they agreed to.
- “But” (v.10) the first hired also received a denarius.
- By implication, the 3PM, 12PM, and 9AM groups also received one denarius.
- The men at the end of the line, those first hired, complained because they worked more than the others did.
- They believed it was not fair for the others to receive as much as they did.
- Does grace produce resentment in our sinful hearts (v.15)?
- From their view someone less deserving received more generosity than they deserved.
- How does this reflect on your thinking concerning the nature of God (v.16)?

LABORERS TIME FOR PAYMENT — Mt.20:8-16

Gratitude Turned to Bitterness



- Landowner instructs the foreman to pay the workers in the reverse order they were hired (v.8).
- The 6AM hire group complained because the 5PM hire group got paid the same amount as they did.
- Why do we tend to compare ourselves to others?
- The 6AM hire group and the 5PM hire group got paid one denarius. Is that fair?
- To be paid one denarius for this type of work is by all common measures unusually generous.
- What changed the mood of the 6AM hire group who was happy for the agreed upon amount, but now are resentful?
- What is our attitude when God appears to bless others “better” than we think we deserve?
- God is not going to reward you for the amount of work you do. He will reward you for your faithfulness.
- “So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen” (Mt.20:16; 22:14).