Lord, many of your precious sons and daughters are being tormented and tempted; tormented because they do not any longer follow the worldly ways of their culture; tempted to forget what they have heard direct from the Lord, who is the Spirit of truth and revelation, because of persecution, even from Christians.

Lord, your *called ones* have heard direct from you about what they are to do or not do. Help them stand that ground and not listen or cooperate with people who have never heard a word from You, or if they have – have let it go in one ear and out the other – afraid to go against mainstream church traditions, family loyalties, or government take-over with their rules and regulations.

Lord, it is clear that we are living in turbulent times and if we do not stick to what You have said to us directly, we will be like the waves of the sea, tossed back and forth to drown in doubt and fear. We can not expect anything from You then, except painful discipline. You have repeatedly told us (through Your prophets) that Your judgment on our nation has started, and in these first stages it is disciplining Your church that we repent and return to You and Your Word; to Your purpose, principles and promises. Father, we cannot say that You haven’t been fair or patient; for You have, more than we deserve.

As I was reading in Matthew 20:1-16, where the owner of the vineyard had hired men to work for him at different hours, it came to me that many of God’s men today have been hired by Him for doing His work that doesn’t fit in with traditions, personal preferences, culture expectation or compromising lifestyles.

“Standing around” without being hired by the Lord can mean you are working for a man doing what he wants you to do, so that he (his business, church or political group) can profit from the work you do for them. “Standing around” can also mean that you are very busy with your own things in life; having all the stuff and activity you think you should have.

“Standing around” waiting to be hired in the Lord’s work is a matter of being ready to do His work. Not everyone is ready in the way the Lord needs them to be. Standing around waiting to be hired by the Lord may mean you are watching and learning things from the Lord that will make you just as productive in a short time as those who have been working far longer in the Lord’s vineyard. To others it might look like you are lazy or against physical work. It can look foolish to people with limited vision.

When it was time to be paid, those who were hired by the owner of the vineyard at the 3rd, 6th or 9th hour complained because He had paid the others hired at the 11th hour the same. They were rebuked for this: comparing themselves with others.

*“We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.”* 2 Corinthians 10:12-13

We can not see the way the Lord sees it. His ways are higher than our ways. We can only keep our eyes on the One who controls our destiny. Instead of complaining (or judging a man) would it not be better to go to the Lord and ask for His wisdom and understanding? The Scriptures tell us that when we do, He will be generous – without finding fault, and we all know “fault” is there in each of us.

*“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.*

*“The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower.”* James 1:2-11

Working in the Lord’s vineyard won’t look right to most people. God is working outside our comfortable boxes and self-protective walls. He’s telling some to quit their worldly jobs and trust Him completely, or to leave churches or missions organizations they have been with, or to stop making payments on their house, or to file bankruptcy, or to move to another place and start over there, or to stay put waiting on the Lord, not fearing what man says or threatens you with, or to be separated from certain people (even loved ones) that that criticize your vision because it does not look or feel right to them. The Lord is visiting and reaching out to those who want to be free to work and walk with Him; to come under His yoke and burden. Simplicity!

Waiting on the Lord to hire us for His work, no matter how long we have to stand around waiting – pays off in the end. Besides, when you are busy with something else in life, how can you be ready for your time of hire by the Lord? The Lord has a path; KEEP TO HIS PATH.

Whose *hire* do we really want in life? How long are we willing to wait in order to be ready to do a good job for the Lord? How determined are we; determined enough to endure persecution, even from those you are closest to?

In every letter to His churches, Jesus ends each one by saying, *“Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”* (Revelation 2 and 3) With all that is coming against the people of God - rapidly, we need to know the Spirit’s voice apart from others, and then follow through faithfully in whatever it is He is saying to us, no matter who thinks what or says what. The Day is soon approaching when Christ will return. Those who return with Him are those who followed their Shepherd’s voice and trusted Him to take care of them in every way.

*“By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

*“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.*

*“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.”* Hebrews 11:5-9