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## GRACE CAME AT THE 11<sup>TH</sup> HOUR

Dear Chosen One: In this newsletter, I will share my 11<sup>th</sup> hour experience to give you hope for that situation, predicament, or circumstance that you are facing right now. This message is not for everyone but only for those individuals who have been waiting on God to answer their petition, their prayer, or are waiting for a supernatural breakthrough like I was.

In Matthew 20:1-16 there is a story about workers in the Vineyard. It reads: **“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into the vineyard. And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace and said to them ‘you also go into the vineyard and whatever is right I will give you.’ So, they went. Again, he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others idle, and said to them, ‘why have you been standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive...”** (Continue reading vs. 8-16.)

I want to draw your attention to the workers who were hired at the **eleventh hour**. Whatever the reason, these workers were overlooked for a long period of time. They watched the landowner come out at the third, sixth, and seventh hour hiring more people while they were just standing there. I am sure they started to question themselves-thinking that

they were not as skillful, strong, worthy, educated, better equipped, or qualified for the job, since they were not hired at the same time as the others.

Have you ever felt this way? You know that you are qualified for that new position, but your boss overlooked you for the promotion. You have all the credentials for the loan, but the bank still turned you down. Your friend bought a car while you were still taking public transportation. One of your co-workers announced that she/he is getting married, but you still can't find a date. As a matter of fact, every time you put your best foot forward someone or something gets in your way and prevents you from accomplishing your goal.

These men stood around all day waiting for someone to hire them, but no one noticed them. Although they may have felt discouraged, they never quit, walked away or complained how unfair things were, as many of us would have done. These laborers stayed there even though the odds seemed to be against them. They decided to wait. The Bible says, **“Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait , I say, on the Lord!”** (Psalms 27:14)

The moral of this story is that waiting is a virtue, and not too many people possess it. To wait for someone or something requires patience and self-discipline. Oftentimes, we want things to happen in the timeframe that we set without taking into consideration all the other events that have to come together to execute the very thing we want. Finally, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour the landowner came out and asked

# IT'S TIME FOR YOUR BREAKTHROUGH!

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them “**why have you been standing here idle all day? They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’**”

When I was in prison, the courts, Governors, and Commissioners overlooked me for years. I watched other prisoners go home, win their appeal, get clemency, cases got reopened, but every time I put in an appeal it seemed like my petition got rejected or denied--I felt they overlooked my request. To be overlooked is also to be rejected.

You may not have had the same experience as being overlooked in prison, but you know what it feels like to be overlooked or rejected by someone. However, God never overlooks us. The song writer says, He’s an on-time God, He may not come when you want Him, but He is always on time.

You have waited and watched others receive their breakthrough and got their prayers answered. For those of you who can relate to this message, I am here to tell you this is your **11<sup>th</sup> hour. It is Breakthrough Time!**

Those people who went ahead of you, went to advocate for you. Those who built and bought houses while you were away or got turned down for the loan, may have been keeping that very house for you. Yes! You did not get the promotion because possibly a better position would later become available. If you are concerned why the doctors never suggested or offered you that medication, it was because they needed to run some more tests. The adoption papers were delayed but God has something better in store for you. You failed the test. **Go again!** You are better prepared now. The Commissioners denied your parole. **Appeal it!** You can no longer be overlooked or rejected because this is your time for **FAVOR!**

Remember your situation or circumstance did not catch God by surprise. However, while we face setbacks, delays, disappointments, rejections and get overlooked by others, God can and will use those disadvantages for our benefit.

The Bible says that the men who got hired at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour received the same wages as those who were hired at the 1<sup>st</sup> hour. What I’m telling you is that you haven’t missed the blessings or chances that God has in store for you. You may have missed worldly events, or family functions but not godly opportunities. God makes His favor available for you at the right time and He is the God of many chances.

When my release day came, it was at the right time. Although it looked as if I was missing out on opportunities while I was in prison, I didn’t. God had my blessings stored up for me and I am enjoying every one of them.

Another example is the man on the Cross next to Jesus. He spent his entire life, stealing, killing, lying, cheating, and committing many crimes. I am sure he had a long rap sheet and was finally facing the consequences of his actions. He even admitted he was being condemned for the crimes he had committed. However, at the last chapter of his life, while he was being executed - *his* 11<sup>th</sup> hour - he looked over at Jesus who was on the Cross next to him and said, “**I beg of you Jesus, show me grace, and take me with you into your everlasting kingdom. Jesus responded, ‘I promise you—this very day you will enter paradise with me.’**” (Luke 23:42-43.)

For many people this last-minute favor doesn’t seem fair, but God’s favor is not distributed fairly. Therefore, I want to reach out to those unbelievers, sceptics, doubters, critics, and those who think that God has forgotten them and even to those who don’t care about where they will spend eternity after they die. This is your 11<sup>th</sup> hour of GRACE. Time is winding down; you can trust God and allow Him to handle your affairs. Today, you can also receive the **free gift** of Salvation starting now. Don’t allow your pride or social status to deprive you of doing either.

**Today is your Breakthrough Day!**