

Matthew 20:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

Analysis

This verse reveals profound theological truth central to Reformed understanding of Scripture. The passage demonstrates God's sovereignty and grace working through human circumstances. Christ's teaching here challenges contemporary religious assumptions while pointing to deeper spiritual realities.

Historical Context

First-century Palestine was marked by religious fervor and political tension. The passage reflects interactions between Jesus and various groups: Pharisees, Sadducees, disciples, and crowds. Each audience received teaching tailored to their needs and spiritual condition.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen your appreciation for Christ?
2. What false beliefs or practices does this text correct?
3. How should you share this truth with others?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐξελθὼν	περὶ	τὴν	τρίτην	ὥραν	εἶδεν	ἄλλους
And	he went out	about	G3588	the third	hour	and saw	others
G2532	G1831	G4012		G5154	G5610	G1492	G243

ἐστῶτας	ἐν	τῇ	ἀγορᾷ	ἀργούς
standing	in	G3588	the marketplace	idle
G2476	G1722		G58	G692

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 5:13 (Parallel theme): And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.