



*The Rock is a Youth
Ministry of Ascension
Lutheran Church*

That's Not Fair!

Based on Matthew 20:1-16

Announcer1	Peri
Announcer2	Lauren
Honest Abe	Ryan
Hans	Joe
Franz	Zach
George	Toby
Lenny	Michael
Shawn J.	Matt W.
Chinese G.	Clae Riker
Lucy	Allee
Ethyl	Annee
Mr. Dowd	Matt S.
Harvey	(No one)
Foreman	Oliver

Setting: *Set of reality game show entitled "That's Not Fair".*

Hidden Voice: "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard." Matthew 20, verse 1.

Announcer 1: Welcome to the latest reality show to sweep the country..."That's Not Fair". *(Applause)*

Announcer 2: As you may recall, in this show we place our contestants in situations that are seemingly unfair, and wait to see which ones tolerate the situation...

Announcer 1: And which ones crack under pressure, finally blurting out the often-heard words—come on, say them with me because you know you've said them before—

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That's Not Fair!

THAT'S NOT FAIR!

Announcer 2: Oh come on studio audience, you can do better than that. All together on the count of three. One, two, three, THAT'S NOT FAIR!

Announcer 1: In today's scenario, our contestants are seemingly chosen at random to work the day shift in Honest Abe's Kosher Hot Dog Factory.

Abe: *(To Audience.)* So what is it with Kosher hot dogs? They're seldom hot, we all assume their not dogs, and what could possibly be Kosher about them? *(Pause.)* I digress.

Foreman: Boss, we need more workers for the day shift.

Abe: Yeah, yeah, I know. *(To audience.)* As you can see, due to circumstances completely beyond my control, I find myself unable to staff my factory today, so here I am, beating the cornfields of central Iowa for workers.

(Hans & Franz enter.)

Foreman: Hey, you two over there, what's your names?

Hans: Hi. I am Hans.

Franz: And I am Franz.

Hans/Franz: We're here to pump *(clap)* you up *(point to audience.)*

Foreman: What do you think boss?

Abe: Are you sure we're in Iowa? *(Pause.)* Well, they certainly look like able-bodied young men.

Hans: Able-bodied! Yah, dat's for sure.

Franz: Yah, it's not like we're a couple girly men.

Abe: You boys have any experience in hot dogs?

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Foreman: Yeah, you know, Oscar Meyer, Jimmy John, Ball Park Franks.

Hans: Ball Park Franks?

Hans/Franz: We're here to PLUMP (*clap*) you up (*point to audience.*)

Abe: You're hired. \$100 for the day!

Announcer 1: Three hours later (*holds up sign*).

Announcer 2: At 9 in the morning (*holds up sign*).

(George & Lenny enter.)

Foreman: Hey, you over there. What's your name?

George: Yeah, what's it to you? We didn't do nothing.

Lenny: I was just lookin' for a soft rabbit to pet. George said if I can catch me a rabbit, I could keep him and pet him, if I promise not to squish him.

George: LENNY. That's enough. You always talk too much, and that's what gets us fired from our jobs.

Abe: So you two fellows looking for work are you?

George: Mister, we'd work for the going rate.

Lenny: And rabbits.

Abe: You're hired!

Announcer 1: Three hours later (*holds up sign*).

Announcer 2: At 12 noon (*holds up sign*).

(Shawn Johnson & Chinese Gymnast enters.)

Foreman: Hey, you over there. What's your name? Haven't I seen you before?

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Shawn: Don't you recognize me? *(Throws her hands back like she just stuck a gymnastics landing.)*

Abe: Of course! You're the one off the cereal box!

Foreman: Tony the Tiger? Tucan Sam? Captain Crunch?

Abe: No! No! The girl off the Wheaties Box!

Foreman: Oh...I only eat Frosted Fruit Loops, Kosher of course.

Abe: You're Shawn Johnson, the world famous gymnast. What are you doing, here?

Shawn: Well, now that the Olympics are done, I'm just showing my little friend from the Chinese Gymnastics team all the sites and sounds of my home state.

Foreman: Has she ever seen the inside of a genuine old-fashioned mid-American Kosher Hot Dog Factory?

Shawn: No.

Abe: Come with us, we'll even pay you a fair wage.

Announcer 1: Three hours later *(holds up sign)*.

Announcer 2: At 3 in the afternoon *(holds up sign)*.

(Lucy & Ethyl enter.)

Foreman: Hey, you over there.

Lucy: Say, you startled me! Your not going to tell Ricky where I am, are you?

Ethyl: Or Fred.

Abe: Say, you look familiar. Haven't I seen you before?

Lucy: Well, I'm Lucy Ricardo.

Ethyl: And I'm Ethyl Mertz.

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Foreman: Say, you two ladies don't have any experience in the hot dog industry do you?

Lucy: Well, I once stomped grapes in Italy.

Ethyl: We both ran a chocolate candy assembly line.

Abe: Close enough. You're hired!

Announcer 1: Two hours later (*holds up sign*).

Announcer 2: At 5 in the afternoon (*holds up sign*).

(Mr. Dowd and Harvey enter.)

Foreman: Hey, you over there. What's your name?

Mr. Dowd: Oh, Pardon me. The name's Dowd. Elwood P. Here's my card.

Foreman: Why, thank you.

Abe: Say, is there something we could do for you, Mr. Dowd?

Mr. Dowd: What did you have in mind?

Abe: Well, if your not doing anything, we'd like to hire you to come work the rest of the day for us.

Mr. Dowd: Well, that would be fine, but first I'd like to introduce you to a friend of mine...

Abe: The more the merrier. So long as he's not a bodybuilder, a crazy redhead, a big guy who talks about nothing but rabbits all day, or a 3-foot six-inch gymnast. We've reached our quota on those.

Mr. Dowd: Oh, no, no. Don't worry. Harvey's nothing like that.

Foreman: Well that's good.

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Mr. Dowd: You see, Harvey's a six-foot three-and-a-half-inch rabbit.

Forman: And why do you call him Harvey?

Mr. Dowd: Well, that's his name.

Forman: And where did you meet this friend, Harvey?

Mr. Dowd: Well, I'm walking down the street one day, and I hear this voice say "Good evening, Mr. Dowd." Well, I turn around, and there's this big six-foot rabbit leaning up against a lamppost. Now I thought nothing of that because when you've lived in a town as long as I've lived in this one, you get used to the fact that everyone knows your name.

Abe: *(Grabs his head and looks at audience.)* Maybe some of the rest of you employers can relate to this.

Announcer 1: One hour later *(holds up sign)*.

Announcer 2: At 6 in the afternoon *(holds up sign)*.

(Abe & Forman wait at door with handful of checks, as employees file past in reverse order.)

Foreman: Here you go, \$100 for each of you, Mr. Dowd, Lucy, Ethyl, Shawn, Friend of Shawn, George, Lenny, Hans, and Franz. *(Employees are all looking visibly angry and grumbling.)*

(Mr. Dowd walks up to Abe, and whispers in his ear.)

Abe: Oh, and \$100 for your friend Harvey! *(Hands him a check.)*

George: Hold it! You're paying the rabbit?

Mr. Dowd: It never fails. Harvey always seems to have that effect on people. They're always impressed. You see, that's envy, and there's a little bit of envy in the best of us. That's too bad.

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- George: That's too bad? *(Pause.)* No, THAT'S NOT FAIR.
- Hans: Yah, and I had to listen to Lenny mindlessly yak about wanting a rabbit farm the whole day.
- Franz: And then, this Mr. Dowd comes in and spends most of the last hour of the day trying to introduce us to an invisible six-foot rabbit.
- Mr. Dowd: That's six-foot three-and-a-half. Let's just stick to the facts.
- Ethyl: Lucy, this is another fine mess you've gotten us in!
- Lucy: *(Cries.)* Wah!!!
- Shawn: And I thought the judges in the Olympics were tough!
- Hans/Franz: *(To Abe.)* We're going to beat *(clap)* you up *(point to Abe.)*
- Abe: Friends, friends. What is the issue? I paid each of you exactly what I promised. It's not that I cheated you; I was just more generous with Mr. Dowd and some of the later arrivers than you'd expect.
- Lucy: Honest Abe is right. He was more than fair with all of us. Truth is, I wasn't such a great worker.
- Mr. Dowd: More importantly, Harvey wants us to remember that the kingdom of heaven is like this.
- Shawn: It's not an issue of fairness. In fact, especially when it comes to God, none of us really want God to be fair with us, because we are all deserving of no reward from God at all.
- Ethyl: But in his grace, he rewards us far beyond what any of us deserve.
- George: And ultimately whether we receive Christ as our savior as a small child and serve him many years, or ask Christ into our heart on our death bed, God's

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reward of eternal life is far more than any of us deserve.

Hans/Franz: Christ came to pump (*clap*) us up (*point to audience.*)

Abe: Any questions? (*Lenny raises his hand.*)

Lenny: I'd kind of like to meet the six-foot rabbit, if that's okay with everyone. (*All moan.*)