

problem of the two different names in this passage. GNB does deal with the identical problem in Judges 8.22-24 by substituting "Midianites" for "Ishmaelites" in verse 24 (without even a footnote!); but surprisingly it does not make that adjustment here. Where modern-day readers use English as well as their own language, an explanatory footnote will therefore be desirable or necessary if the two names do not both appear in the translation in their language.

2) If the translation refers to only one group of traders, then the critical pronoun "they" in "they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him ..." (RSV, verse 28) must be taken to refer to the brothers, since to make it refer to the traders would result in the nonsense that they sold Joseph to themselves, unless other changes are made in the text itself. (This is the way GNB and NIV translate, even though they retain the two different names for the traders in verse 28.)

EUAN FRY

## HOW WAS THAT?

Question:

"What does the story of the labourers in the vineyard teach us? Why do those who came at the eleventh hour receive as much as those who came at the first hour?"

Answer:

"It teaches us that we shouldn't be too eager to start work."

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Quotation from a local newspaper somewhere:

"We apologise for a misprint in last week's edition, in which we stated that ... is a Defective in the local police force. We should of course have said that he is a Detective in the local police farce."

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Seen on a church notice board:

Tonight's sermon: WHAT IS HELL?

Come early and listen to our choir practising.

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"He who translates literally creates fiction; he who adds, blasphemes"

(Tosefta Megillah 4.31,  
quoted by Jacob Milgrom in *Bible Review*, August 1994)