

Gospel Reflection

Today's Gospel probably leaves those of us with a strong business sense scratching our heads in confusion. What would possess any boss to pay the same wages to a person who worked only a few minutes as someone who worked a full day? This parable calls us to dig deeper into the reality to which the story points. Consider the actions of the landowner. He goes out in search of laborers a total of five times during the day: at dawn, at nine, at twelve, at three, and at five. In this parable, Jesus summons us to consider the landowner's actions as the kind of actions our God performs. In our lives we each have moments of standing idle, like the people in today's parable. God is always on the prowl for us, inviting us into the vineyard. God's persistence is immeasurable. Whether we respond at the dawn of life or at the "five o'clock" of our lives, God's love and mercy are still showered upon us.

When I was in high school my best friend became "born again." He carried a small blue card in his wallet. On that card was written the exact date that he was "saved." Knowing that I had been raised in the Roman Catholic Church, he asked me, "What day were you saved?" I told him that I was saved the day I was baptized and that I honestly expected to keep getting saved, I hoped, many more times for the rest of my life. A spiritual mentor once told me to expect to be born again, and again, and again, and again. Today's Gospel reminds us that even when we stray, when we become complacent about God's tremendous action in our lives, God still calls us back into a loving relationship. Perhaps it is at those times when we stand idle that God hounds us all the more, summoning us into the vineyard of new life, new possibilities, and renewed hope.

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

Matthew 20:1-16

V Z E Y R E Q G R R O E T
 Y I Y T E J E M E M G R S
 N I N R W N V L N A U G R
 L A G E E N J B W F T N I
 X A M R Y U N Y O G K C F
 T I O E S A L I D R Z L T
 Q U D T R I R S N U Q D S
 S Q K L A O F D A M H L W
 I A K D E D F W L B Y A P
 S S U O I V N E A L T S Y
 E Q U A L W N O V E J T R
 L A B O R E R S J D B G S
 J R W X D T K V R I Q S P

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

AGREE	DAILY WAGE	ENVIIOUS
EQUAL	FIRST	FOREMAN
GENEROUS	GRUMBLED	IDLE
JUST	LABORERS	LANDOWNER
LAST	PAY	VINEYARD

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9/21/2008*

*Matthew 20:1-16
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.

Claremont, CA

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Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *Matthew 20:1-16*

The Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The Kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace and said to them, 'You too go into the vineyard and I will give you what is just.' So they went off.

And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.'

When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought

that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage.

And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and heat.' He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus the last will be first and the first will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord



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Gospel Glossary

Cheating: also translated "treating unjustly"

Are You Envious: The landowner has not acted unjustly, since he has paid the agreed upon wage. The complaints of the workers are thus the result of envy.

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- What labor has Christ invited me to perform in His vineyard.
- What are my views on "Latecomers to God's vineyard?"
- How can I extend to others the sort of generosity demonstrated in this parable?

Closing Prayer

Father in Heaven,

The perfection of justice is found in your love and all mankind is in need of your law. Help us to find this love in each other that justice may be attained through obedience to your will. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time