

September 20th 2026 25th Sunday Ordinary Time – Year A Matthew 20:1-16

²⁰⁻¹“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. ³“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ ⁵So they went. “He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ ⁷“‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ ⁸“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ ⁹“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹²‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ ¹³“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? ¹⁴Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel. ➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life.	➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition. ➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do).
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In this week’s gospel we see Jesus comparing the Kingdom of heaven to a landowner hiring workers for his vineyard. In the landowners second response "Have I no right to do what I like with my own" we grasp that envy is closely linked to possessiveness. We see that someone can love us deeply and yet can be close to others in ways they are not close to us. By making the journey from 'God as hirer' to 'God as friend' or 'God as lover' we discover the wonder of love, human and divine.

When were the times in your lives that you felt aggrieved at your lot in life: you felt hard done by, felt you did not get what you deserved?

Who were the people who showed you they understood how you felt through their compassion and non judgement as Jesus did?

Prayer:

Thank You Lord for the people in our lives who taught us that true love is always generous and helped us move beyond possessiveness and envy.

Forgive us Lord for the times we grumble at you for the way you share out your blessings, comparing ourselves with others who we feel have things much easier.

Help us Lord to be the presence of Jesus in the world responding to situations as they present themselves as He did, not trying to please everyone but careful to be just at all times.