

**September 24<sup>th</sup> 2023 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A – Matthew 20:1-16**

<sup>20-1</sup>For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" <sup>7</sup>They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Read and re-read</b> – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</li> <li>➤ <b>Meditate</b> - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Pray</b> - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</li> <li>➤ <b>Action</b> – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do</li> </ul>
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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.

