

Year A - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 20:1-16

Are you jealous because I am generous?



As Jesus was telling what the kingdom of heaven would be like, he said: "Early one morning a man went out to hire some workers for his vineyard.

After he had agreed to pay them the usual amount for a day's work, he sent them off to his vineyard.

"About nine that morning, the man saw some other people standing in the market with nothing to do. He said he would pay them what was fair, if they would work in his vineyard.

So they went.

"At noon and again about three in the afternoon he returned to the market. And each time he made the same agreement with others who were loafing around with nothing to do.

"Finally, about five in the afternoon the man went back and found some others standing there.

He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

"'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

Then he told them to go work in his vineyard.

"That evening the owner of the vineyard told the man in charge of the workers to call them in and give them their money.

He also told the man to begin with the ones who were hired last.

When the workers arrived, the ones who had been hired at five in the afternoon were given a full day's pay.

"The workers who had been hired first thought they would be given more than the others.

But when they were given the same, they began complaining to the owner of the vineyard.

They said, 'The ones who were hired last worked for only one hour. But you paid them the same that you did us. And we worked in the hot sun all day long!'

"The owner answered one of them, 'Friend, I didn't cheat you. I paid you exactly what we agreed on. Take your money now and go!'

What business is it of yours if I want to pay them the same that I paid you? Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Why should you be jealous, if I want to be generous?'"

Jesus then said, "So it is! Everyone who is now first will be last."



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God is generous



Introduction

- God is generous to everyone but sometimes it's hard for us to understand, especially when God seems to give some people more than others. In truth, only God can see the 'big picture', our job is to learn to be joyful for others when they experience God's blessings.
- Today's gospel uses a parable to teach us about generosity. Ask the children what they think it means to be generous, what does it look like? How does it make them and others feel? What does it mean to be happy for others when they receive generosity?

Message

- Explain to the children that in today's gospel Jesus' is using a parable to explain God's generosity and how we are called to be generous just like God.
- In Jesus' time, men who waited in the marketplace were there waiting to be offered work. For some men they didn't have any other work so they relied on this money to live. This time of harvesting was an important time and lots of extra men would be hired to help complete the work on time.
- The men who started in the morning were not happy when the men who started late got the same wage.
- Ask the children if they felt like this too when listening to the scripture.
- Explain to the children, that Jesus is showing us that God's love is given freely, it is not something to be worked for or competed for. This is what Jesus asks us to be as well, to give freely and compassionately.



Discussion

- Asking the children what they understand generosity to be.
- What do we have to sacrifice sometimes, in order to be generous?
- How will I be generous and giving today?
- How can I practice being happy for others when good things happen for them?