



Daily Reflections

August 23, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 20: 1-16

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, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my 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, he 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 the 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."

Our Scripture Reflection

The words found in Isaiah 55:8 serve as the key to understanding our Gospel text: "My thoughts are not your thoughts nor are my ways your ways, says the Lord". Jesus described a landowner who was not fair but was instead incredibly merciful. God gives us not what we deserve or want, but what we truly need. Thank God!

Food for your Journey

Helmut Thielicke ends his sermon on this parable with these two points: "First, you will never be able to see the goodness of God with a jealous eye Second, this saving certainty - it really does have to do with salvation! - that God is good, that he is good to me, enters into my heart only if I trust that he cares for his children beyond all that we ask or think and that I, too, am safe and secure in his goodness."

-Jeffrey L. Edmiston, "The laborers in the vineyard," Courses at Northwest Nazarene University, courses.nnu.edu. Retrieved

April 1, 2002.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Thank you for Your love and mercy for me, a sinner. In gratitude, may I show mercy to those who have hurt me or treated me unfairly. Amen.