



# Daily Reflections

**August 22, 2018**

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## 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."

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

To some, Jesus' words will sound sinfully unfair. Please remember, however, Our Lord was neither sinful nor unfair. He was, however, merciful, more merciful than any man in history. Today's disconcerting Gospel story illustrates, perhaps painfully, that God grants His Grace and mercy based on need rather than merit. For those of us who are undeserving sinners, this is amazing news. But then, isn't God's Grace utterly amazing?

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## **Food for your Journey**

There's a story, of a man who walked through a neighborhood on the first Monday of the month and stopped at the first house.

He knocked at the door and explained to the homeowner, "I've come into some money, and I want to share my good fortune. I'd like to give you \$100 if that's okay?" The man handed over a crisp bill.

"Okay?!! Yes, it is okay!" The flabbergasted homeowner thanked the man and the mysterious man walked away.

The next week, the same man appeared again and the homeowner once again received a new \$100 bill. Each Monday that month the man with the money knocked at the door and the delighted and overjoyed homeowner received a crisp, brand-new Ben Franklin.

On the first Monday of the next month, however, the mysterious philanthropist walked down the sidewalk and passed by the first home and went to the door of the second home on the street.

"Hey!" yelled the homeowner of the first house, "Where's my money?"

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Precious Lord, I am not worthy for what You did for me on Calvary and for the many Graces You have imparted since. Your generosity and compassion are greater than what man can imagine. Help me, Lord, to use my time and talent to show mercy and compassion to those who are in need. Through my actions, may they see You. Amen