

Daily *Reflections*

The Divine Intervention

August 19, 2015

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

In a passage found only in Matthew, Jesus certainly shook up the crowds back in His day and gives us cause to think in our own day! Different groups of workers are sent out at different times of the day to work in a man's vineyard. At the end of the day, the whistle is blown, the workers are lined up for their pay with the first hired directed to the back of the line while the last hired placed IN THE FRONT OF THE LINE AND ALL RECEIVE THE SAME PAY! No wonder the workers first hired are furious. It's doesn't seem fair to them nor to us. Please note, however, the first hired negotiated and signed off for the usual daily wage. According to the owner's thinking, they have no grounds to fuss. He questions the reason for their complaint: Are they envious because of the owner's absurd generosity?

Bottom line: Jesus teaches us about His Father's dealings with His people in His Kingdom.

1. As Christians, we sign off to follow the commandments at Baptism.
2. When we follow the commandments and live the way of Jesus, do not expect an "atta boy!!!" We are doing what we signed off to do, no applause, please.
3. Jesus is neither condoning nor endorsing complacent, immoral behavior!
4. He is teaching us that salvation belongs to God. He can give Heaven to whomever He pleases. Salvation is God's call not ours.
5. Can we be humble enough to be grateful that sinners, too, could be saved????

Food for your Journey

If you are scratching your head about Jesus' teaching in today's Gospel passage, then check out this article.....

Select samples from Dandi Daley MacKall's *Kids Say the Greatest Things About God* (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1995):

A kid's view of prayer:

"You can always reach him at dinnertime."

"Life is hard, like the song: My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of misery"

"Jesus is God, only with real fingers and toes"

Jesus may have been "God's only Son, but he still had to go to school."

What does God look like? "How am I supposed to know? You gotta' use your imagination. He's indivisible."

What does God create? "In the beginning, God created heaven and Earth. Now he just does people."

We make the Creator sad when "His creation don't turn out too good--like my big brother or ... like cockroach."

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Your Father once said through His Prophet Isaiah: "My ways are not your ways; my thoughts are not your thoughts." Lord, for those times that I do not understand, please open my mind and heart with Your Grace. May I then be humbled. Amen.

The Divine Intervention's mission is carried out solely through the generous contributions of people like you. Please prayerfully consider donating to our ministry by visiting www.thedivineintervention.org or via our mailing address, P.O. Box 433, Huntington, W.V. 25709. Your donation is tax deductible.



[Make A Donation](#)