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Year A 25TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION AVAILABLE ALSO

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 55:6-9

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 144(145):2-3,8-9,17-18

Second Reading:

Philippians 1:20-24,27

Gospel:

Matthew 20:1-16

*"Thus the last will be first,
and the first, last."*



Christian Wilhelm Ernst Dietrich, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings online [here](#).

Check out [this video](#) on the readings for children.

Pray

In the Gospel today we hear Jesus use a challenging and even provocative parable about God's generosity.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Are there times that come to mind where you felt you were treated unfairly? Have you ever thought that God was unfair towards you? What are you basing that opinion on?
- Reflect on the promise the owner made to all the workers in this parable: was he actually being unfair or did he pay what he had promised?
- Are there any times where you felt God's generosity in your life? Unmerited, unearned loving generosity from the heart of the Father?

Talk

In today's readings we hear Jesus tell the parable of the workers in the vineyard.

- Do you ever feel like someone in your family gets special treatment - a bigger slice of cake, a nicer Christmas present? We don't like injustice, do we!
- Look carefully at the promise the owner made to the workers in this parable: he actually paid them what he had promised. He was being fair - they were actually the ones looking for more than they had agreed to!
- What can this parable teach us about God's generous heart? Do we deserve God's love and mercy? Yet he freely offers it to us!

Family Challenge!

Make a special effort this week not to complain about little things around the house. If someone gets a bigger portion of dessert, be happy for them! If someone gets a compliment and they've deserved it, be happy for them and compliment them too! If you feel like no one has noticed your efforts, know that God sees all that you do and loves you, and that's what really counts!

GOD'S RADICALLY DIFFERENT WAYS

In today's Gospel, Jesus moves from Galilee to teach in Judea where he is sought out by great crowds and tested by the Pharisees on issues such as marriage and divorce. Jesus also encounters a rich young man who is unable to accept Jesus' demand that he leave his possessions to follow him. Jesus' response to the rich young man sounds very much like the conclusion we will find in today's Gospel: the first will be last and the last will be first.

On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offense to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two. When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equality should be quantified.

A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner, it seems, has acted completely justly. The parable goes beyond that, however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just, he is exceptionally just. He is radically just. He has given those who laboured in the field for a full day their due pay. But he has also given a full-day's wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that landowner has made all workers equal. Indeed, what more could one ask for than to be treated as an equal at work or anywhere else?

The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways.

taken from **Loyola Press Sunday Connection**

CHECK IT OUT: HM TELEVISION

The EUK Mamie Foundation arose from the desire of the Home of the Mother (<http://www.homeofthemothor.org>) to contribute to the New Evangelization.

The Foundation responds to the call to use social communications media as a way to proclaim the Gospel message. Our activities and products are directed towards young people, families and children to transmit good values. Our motto is "Yesterday, today, and always: THE TRUTH."

Great videos on the lives of the saints, "Changing Tracks" and "Turn Around" testimonies, featuring Catholics from our own diocese too; content for young people and children and more.



<http://>



DEALING WITH FRUSTRATIONS

When we read the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, it can be easy to side with those who worked a full day and feel hard done by by the vineyard owner when they receive only one denarius, the exact same as those who started working much, much later in the day! Yet, when we re-examine the story, we realise that they agreed to work for one denarius, they received exactly what they were promised, no less; exactly what they agreed was a fair wage before they began working. Instead they are annoyed by the generosity of the vineyard owner who pays one denarius to everyone who worked for him that day, even though they had no right to expect more for themselves, or less for others. Their expectations as they queued up to receive their wages did not meet reality and they experienced frustration! Are we ever guilty of feeling like that towards God, forgetting that He is abundantly generous and merciful, but we don't earn that mercy or generosity - it is offered freely to everyone! *Let's practice an attitude of gratitude instead, acknowledging the reality of what others have generously done for us, and how God has radically blessed us, and being thankful, rather than being resentful or frustrated!*

This week:

- Are there situations in your life that are causing you frustration? Is some of that frustration caused by unmet expectations, expectations that are not based on reality, or on what was promised to you, or on situations that you encounter or how others behave? Can you pick one situation or relationship to work this week: to acknowledge the reality and escape frustration?



"Expectations Vs Reality": Fr Mike



Laura Story: Blessings

To the Heights Youth Resource also available



Family Prayer

God our Father, thank you for your abundant mercy, love and generosity! Help us to be more aware of all that you do for us, starting with today! Amen

EVENTS

Children's Rosary: First Friday of the Month: Our Lady's Grotto, Youghal Road, Dungarvan. All welcome, young and old! Children will lead the prayers at 4pm. More info: www.childrensrosary.org

Evangelium Apologetics Conference for Young Adults: Saturday 7 October, 11am - 4.30pm, Imperial Hotel Cork. €15. Book in advance. More info on www.evangelium.ie

Encounter for Young Adults: Friday 13th October, 8pm in St John's Church, Parnell Street, Waterford. Talk, music and prayer followed by pizza and chat! For 18-35 year olds. More info on www.waterfordlismore.ie

Youth2000 Munster Retreat: Catholic Youth Retreat - faith, fun and fellowship for those aged 16 - 35 years in Middleton Co. Cork, 20 - 22 October. Donation only. For more details and information on how to book go to www.youth2000.ie

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