



September 20th: God's Grace is Greater than our Fairness

Dear Friends in Christ, this week's Gospel reading from Matthew 20:1–16 invites us into one of Jesus' most challenging parables, the story of workers in the vineyard. A landowner hires workers throughout the day: some early in the morning, some later, and some at the very last hour. At the end of the day, every worker receives the same wage. The workers who had labored all day began to complain. They believe the situation is unfair. After all, they worked longer and carried the burden of the day's heat. Why should those who worked only one hour receive the same?

Jesus uses this story to reveal something deeper about the Kingdom of God. This parable is not primarily about wages or fairness as we understand it. It is about grace. God's grace does not operate according to our calculations. God does not love us because we have earned enough, worked enough, or proven ourselves worthy enough. God's love flows from who God is, gracious, merciful, and abundant in steadfast love.

The challenge for us is that we often compare ourselves with others. We measure who deserves more, who arrived first, who worked harder, or who has done enough. We live in a world where comparison surrounds us. Many people today carry worries about economic pressures, rising costs, and uncertainty about the future. In these moments, it can be easy to believe there is not enough, for ourselves or for others.

But Jesus reminds us that God's kingdom is not built on scarcity. God's grace is not a limited resource. Someone else receiving God's blessing does not mean there is less blessing available for us. God's mercy expands because God's love is endless. The story of Jonah reminds us of this same truth. Jonah became angry when God showed mercy to the people of Nineveh. Jonah wanted God's grace for himself but struggled when that same grace was extended to others. Sometimes we can find ourselves doing the same thing. We celebrate grace when we receive it, but we may hesitate when God offers it to someone else.

The good news is that God's generosity is greater than our understanding of fairness. Our life is found in Christ. Our identity is not based on comparison, achievement, or recognition. We belong to Christ because God has called us, loved us, and claimed us.

As we gather around the Lord's Table, we see this Gospel lived out. None of us earns our place. We all come empty-handed, and Christ meets us with forgiveness, grace, and love. Whether we have walked with God for many years or are taking our first steps of faith, we all receive the same gift, the gift of Jesus Christ.

May we ask ourselves: Where have I been comparing myself with others? Where is God inviting me to receive grace more deeply? Where is God calling me to extend grace to someone else? May we see one another not as competitors seeking our share, but as beloved children of God gathered around the same table of grace.

Because God's grace is not measured by what we deserve. It is measured by who God is. With Christ's peace.