

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sept. 20, 2020.

Theme: "God's Abundant Goodness!"

There is a story about a young man waiting in the Grand Central Bus Depot for a Bus to Connecticut. He put a quarter in a huge scale that issued him a little card upon which read: "You are Jim John, 37 years – old and your Bus for Connecticut leaves in 45 minutes." He was really taken aback by the knowledge of that machine so he tried it again. It gave him the same information but ended by saying your Bus to Connecticut leaves in 30 minutes. With time to spare he went across the street. After a bit more wandering around he returned to the Bus Depot, put another quarter in the scale. This time it answered, "You are still Jim John, you are still 37 years old and while you were across the street acting like a fool you missed the Bus to Connecticut!"

I tell that story because you and I have missed the Bus, we have missed the whole point of today's parable, if we think it is about wages, being fair or unfair, or about matters of justice.

Many numbers of Scripture Scholars contend that today's Gospel is a **simile** not about justice or wages but rather about the overwhelming **Goodness of God!**

Jesus frequently used similes and metaphors in his teachings. In fact, today's Gospel begins with a simile: "Kingdom of heaven is LIKE a landowner...In this parable God is the Landowner, you and I are the Laborers called to work in the Vineyard, and the wages are not money but rather **Eternal Salvation**- namely, to live with God forever in His Heavenly Vineyard.

We are the Laborers because through Baptism we have been adopted as sons and daughters of the Vineyard Owner, that is, the Father. As His Sons & daughters our vocation is to live here on earth as His Witnesses, as His Ambassadors. We do that by living according to the teachings of Jesus. Those can be summed up in Loving God and every human being on earth.

Our challenge is to **think** like **God** thinks, to act like God acts. We think like God when we want, pray for, and hope everyone gets the same wage. That is, goes to heaven. Sacred scripture tells us that God does not want to lose one single human being. He does not will the death of the sinner but rather his conversion -and so should we.

This whole parable wants to get the unbelievable and overwhelming **Goodness of God**. He wants to include the lost sheep, the prodigal Son, both thieves on the crosses, and the one who repents even at the last hour. Look at the one we call the Good thief, look at St. Augustine, look at Dorothy Day - All latecomers.

All week long let us think of "God's abundant Goodness!"