

**TWENTY - FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 09/24/2023.**

Whenever this Gospel passage comes at Mass, I can sense what **nearly everyone** in the assembly is **thinking**. I'm sure today is no different. I can almost hear the **cries of outrage and disbelief**. "Where is the fairness, the justice?" "Why should the person who worked one hour make exactly the same amount as the person who worked all day?" ..... "what on earth was that landowner thinking?"

My guess is, that when we read this story, nearly all of us put ourselves in the **place of those who worked a full day**. And from that perspective, we have a hard time making sense of the story.

**"If I had worked a full day, I would be furious,"** .....

And when we see **ourselves** as the ones who came **late** to the vineyard.... those who for most of the day were "idle" ...our initial outrage and disbelief towards the landowner may start to become **hope & gratitude**. Do we really want to get what we deserve?

My friends, God doesn't **work in this world** the way we would. He doesn't play by the same "rules" that we ourselves would set up if we could. And he doesn't look around and see people and situations the **same way we do**. He just doesn't. And that is **very good thing**.

When we want to not be "bothered" ...God wants to help. When we want to get all judgmental toward the actions of another.... God simply wants to comfort and heal. When we want to look the other way .....God chooses to dive right in and do whatever he can to make things better. He chooses to **love every person and in every situation, no matter what**. And when we do **less than others**, when we don't put in the same time or effort or commitment into the things God is asking of us, when we have a difficult time being as faithful as other people we know or as God wants, when we only **give him a little**....

**God gives us a full day's pay anyway**. And that makes all the difference.