

Fr. Martin's Reflection – September 24, 2023

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

Matthew 20:1-16 presents the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, conveying profound lessons about grace and divine fairness. The landowner's approach challenges conventional notions of reward and labor. All workers, regardless of when they were hired, receive the same wage, revealing a divine principle of unmerited favor.

This parable speaks to the nature of God's grace, emphasizing that salvation is not contingent on our human efforts or merits. Instead, it highlights God's generosity and boundless love for all His children. The landowner's question, "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me?" reminds us of God's sovereignty and His right to dispense grace as He sees fit.

Moreover, this narrative encourages believers to embrace a spirit of contentment and gratitude. Rather than comparing our blessings to others, we should appreciate the unique path God has designed for each of us. It prompts us to reevaluate our attitudes towards envy and entitlement and encourages a mindset of humility and acceptance.

Ultimately, Matthew 20:1-16 calls us to recognize and celebrate the immeasurable grace God freely bestows upon us, reinforcing the profound truth that salvation is a gift, not a wage earned through human toil. It compels us to respond with a heart full of thanksgiving and a willingness to extend the same grace to others.

Eucharistic Miracles Display

Dear friends, I truly hope you got a chance to experience the Eucharistic Miracles display. If not, today is the last day you will be able to experience it, here at our parish. I want to take this opportunity to thank all who helped to make it possible for our parish to host the display. A big 'Thank You' goes out to all our volunteers who kept the doors open, the lights on, and offered a warm welcome to all who visited - what you did is so appreciated! After every successful event, there is usually one very tired person and this event is no different - we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Patty Baylog. Patty worked night and day in planning for the Eucharistic Miracles display and it simply would not have happened without her. On behalf of all of us, *Thank You*, and may God bless you always.

Have a blessed week,

Fr. Martin