Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 20:1–6A: The Workers in the Vineyard

Jesus told his disciples this parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o’clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.’ So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o’clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o’clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They answered, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard.’ When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.’ When those who had started about five o’clock
came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day’s burden and the heat.’ He said to one of them in reply, ‘My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?’ Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

**Focus Questions**

1. Why does the landowner go out at dawn?
2. What does the landowner tell the laborers he will give them if they work in his vineyards?
3. Why do the first laborers grumble at the end of the day?
4. What does the landowner say to them in reply?

5. Who does Jesus say will be first? Who will be last?
The Last Shall Be First

**Directions:** Read each story. How would feel if they really happened to you?

1. Someone cuts ahead of you in the lunch line and takes the last cookie, leaving none for you.

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   ______________________________________________________

2. You save up your money and buy a new bicycle, but your friend gets a nicer bicycle for his birthday.

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3. You eat all your vegetables so you can have desert, but your little sister gets desert without eating any vegetables.

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4. You train all summer to get onto the soccer team, and your friend gets on the team without training once.

5. Your mom pays you $5.00 for raking up all the leaves in the yard, but she also pays your brother $5.00 just for sweeping the kitchen floor.

Reflection Question

What can you do in your own life to stop jealous feelings?
Draw a Scene from the Parable

Directions: In the box below draw your favorite scene from the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard.