

September 20, 2020: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prayer *fully alive*

Lectio Divina Aid

encounter, follow
and respond

Matthew 20: 1-16

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 answer, '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."

first movement Evangelization to encounter

Evangelization is an encounter with the living God. In fact, it is through the Divine encounter that we become fully alive. “The ultimate goal is not health or wellness, but the encounter with Jesus ... He alone frees us from evil and heals our hearts. Only an encounter with him can save, can make life full and beautiful” (Pope Francis, Homily on the Occasion of the Canonization of St. John Henry Newman, 13 October 2019).

Questions to assist your encounter with the Lord

- Jesus always had a purpose to his parables. What message do you think he is trying to convey to us?
- If Jesus is the Landowner in the parable, who are you? Are you the first laborer, eager to work and angry that others receive the same as you? Are you the last laborer, late and waiting, unsure how to move forward? Where are YOU in this parable?

Personal Notes and Insights:

(If in a group, spend 2-5 minutes discussing your responses.)

second movement

Discipleship

to follow

In Discipleship we respond, *fiat*, to his challenging yet loving invitation. St. John Paul II wrote “ ...Mary as Mother became the first ‘disciple’ of her Son, the first to whom he seemed to say: ‘Follow me...’”

Questions to help you prayerfully hear what he is invited you to

- How does it make you feel when Jesus asks the question “Are you envious because I am generous?”
- What message is Jesus giving his disciples when he says “The last will be first, and the first will be last?”
- Are you willing to follow a God who sees the first and the last as equal? What does this tell us about the nature of God?

Personal Notes and Insights:

(If in a group, spend 2-5 minutes discussing your responses.)

third movement Stewardship to respond

Stewardship is the grateful *response* of a Christian *disciple* who recognizes and receives God's gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor. "We do well also to remember that the process of lectio divina is not concluded until it arrives at action (actio), which moves the believer to make his or her life a gift for others in charity" (Pope Benedict XVI).

Questions to help you discern your "grateful response"

- God is challenging us to look at those around us and see they are just as worthy of His love as we are. Do you find this difficult? How so?
- How is God asking you personally, to labor in His Kingdom?
- What is the Lord specifically asking of you?

Personal Notes and Insights:

(If in a group, spend 2-5 minutes discussing your responses.)