



## 25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A – September 24, 2017

Today's Gospel (*Matthew 20:1-16A*) puzzles a lot of people. My Father used to say, "It's a heck of a way to run a business." He knew the parable is not about running a business. He wanted us to learn what he already knew. The parable is about getting from God all the things that we *need*, without comparing what we have with what everybody else has. He used to say, "Happiness is not having what you want, it's wanting what you have. Whenever we focus on what other people have, we usually wind up complaining about something, just like some of the people in the gospel today.

Dr. Maya Angelou, an American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist, recorded one of her childhood recollections in her book entitled, "*Wouldn't Take Nothin' for the Journey Now.*" It resonates with God's message today.

It's a story about her grandmother Annie who ran a store in rural Arkansas. Any time a known whiner would show up, her grandmother would call little Maya to come inside and listen. As the complainer went on and on, Grandmother Annie would look at little Maya to make sure she was listening.

Angelou, who was an accomplished writer, teacher, producer and director, recalls her grandmother's words after the customers left. "Sister", she would say, "...there are people who went to sleep last night, poor and rich, white and black, but they will never wake again. And those dead folks would give anything at all for just five minutes of this hot weather or ten minutes of plowing. ... watch yourself about complaining". Then she said, "What you're supposed to do when you don't like something is change it. And if you can't change it, change the way you think about it."

St. Teresa, the Little Flower, had a beautiful way of explaining why some seem to get more and some seem to get less. She said, "Imagine a whole bunch of water glasses of different sizes...each one is filled to the brim so that it isn't possible to get another drop of water into any of them. Each one is filled to maximum capacity. That's the way God wants to deal with us..."

God grant me the  
Serenity  
to accept the things I  
cannot change...  
Courage to  
change the things I can  
and Wisdom to  
know the difference...

*But seek ye first  
the kingdom of  
God and his  
righteousness and  
all these things  
shall be added  
unto you.*



When we are filled with the love and joy of Jesus there's no room in our hearts for jealousy or envy...or complaining or whining...or anything of that sort, no matter how big or small our "glass" might be.

There is a promise from Jesus on how to fill your "glass" with the right stuff and be happy (*Matthew 6:33*). Do you believe Him? Do you trust Him?

Before you fall asleep tonight, consider the "glass" you have from God. Is it filled with the joy and love of Jesus. Or is it filled with something else. If it's filled with the wrong stuff, you can change it. Or you can change the way you think about it. You get to choose.