

Saint Boniface Parish

Faith Formation Handout – Sunday, September 20th

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 20:1-16a

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."



How can better understanding God's ways help me?

First Grade

Who are the people that you listen to the most? Who teaches you what is right and wrong? When you have a problem, who do you go to for help? In any of these situations, do you ask God for help? He knows everything and can always help you! How could you know what God wants you to do help you to always do the right things?

Second Grade

In today's Gospel, the workers who worked all day got the same pay as the workers who only worked the last hour. How do you think the first workers felt? Do you think they were mistreated? Why do you think the landowner gave them the same amount? Who are the people in your life that need more help? How can you give them more assistance?

Third and Fourth Grades

Do you always know exactly what God wants and is thinking? Why do you think we should want to know what God's ways are? Why is trying to solve our own problems not enough? When was a time that you had a problem that you couldn't solve? When was a time that you tried to solve a problem, but made a mistake? How could God have helped you in these situations?

Fifth and Sixth Grades

Sometimes, what we think is the best thing to do does not always work out well. When was a time that you thought that you were doing the right thing, but ended up doing something wrong? Why did you think it was the right thing to do? What did you base it on? Did you ask God to help you? What do you think He would have told you to do if you had asked Him?

Seventh and Eighth Grades

In the parable in today's Gospel Jesus tells us about the farmer that chooses to pay each worker the same amount regardless of how much work they did. What do you think this parable teaches us about God's ways? How does it show that God's ways are different than our ways? How can you learn to love more like God? How can we treat others in a similar way?

High School and Adults

We often mistake fairness for justice, thinking that people should only get what they earn and not what they need. When was a time that you felt cheated by another person or by God? Looking back now, can you see how God was using that situation, even if it was a bad one, to help bring love into the world? What can you learn about God's ways from that time?

For this Week...

We are Catholic always and in everything we do. Throughout the week bring your faith into your school, your work, your play and your family. Here are some ideas for you.

Monday

It is easy and common for people to say that they believe in God, but how often do you allow God to be in charge of your life? Today, ask God for the first gift of the Holy Spirit – 'Fear of the Lord' or 'Wonder and Awe'. This gift helps us to know that God is God and we are not. Allow Him to guide your day in ways that you would not have chosen or expected.

Tuesday

If we are truly able to say that God is God and we are not, then we can and should take the next step of trusting in Him. God is all powerful and can do all things, but the question is, do you trust in Him to be with you? Today, make a list of the ways that you want God's help and then pray, putting your trust in God that He will be with you.

Wednesday

The key to understanding God's ways is learning how to pray and talk with Him about His plans for you, and consistency is the key to prayer. Today, set a prayer time that you will follow through with all week. Also, try to make those ten to fifteen minutes a time when you can pray with someone else, so that you will not be alone.

Thursday

Even though God is moving in all situations and is always with us, it can be difficult to know Him and His ways. To do this, we need to look for love in every situation. Today, when you start to face a problem or become angry, stop and ask God to help you see love – love for the other person and how God wants you to love right then.

Friday

We can practice looking for and knowing God's ways by paying attention to the past, seeing how God worked in our lives, and being thankful. Today, think through the beginning of this week and thank God for as many things – both big and small – that you can. Do this with someone so that you can point out all of the good things that God is doing in your lives.

Saturday

God is eternal and so His timing is different than ours. When we expect God to act when we tell Him to, it makes it difficult for us to truly know His ways. Today, be patient with God. Think of the things that you have been asking God for help with. How has He helped you, and how is He slowly leading you closer to Him? How can patience help us to understand His ways?

FROM THE CATECHISM...

The truth is that God is at work in all in all the actions of His creatures is inseparable from faith in God the Creator. God is the first cause who operates in and through secondary cause: 'For God is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.' Far from diminishing the creature's dignity, this truth enhances it. Drawn from nothingness by God's power, wisdom, and goodness, it can do nothing is it is cut off from its origin, for 'without a Creator the creature vanishes. Still less can a creature attain its ultimate end without the help of God's grace.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 308



Next Week's Readings

Here are the readings for next Sunday so that on Saturday you can read through them. If you take a few minutes to read them and prepare, you will get a lot more from Mass. They are available online at www.usccb.org. Use the calendar on the right.

Ezekiel 18:25-28 Psalm 25:4-5,6-7,8-9 Philipians 2:1-11 Matthew 21:28-32

This handout was created by the Lynn Catholic Collaborative. For more info on how to use at your parish please email admin@lynnccatholic.org