

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings reflect a God who cannot and will not be constrained by human rules of propriety and reasonableness. They show a God who chooses to give to the most unlikely and undeserving because that is the nature of God.

The first reading was a message to the despairing Israelites in Babylon. They doubted God could or would do anything to help them. Isaiah urged them to have a change of heart and to return to Yahweh and His mysterious plan.

In the responsorial, the emphasis is on God's freedom and compassion. Yahweh is "compassionate toward all His works."

In the Gospel, the original parable ended at the paying of the same wage to all groups starting with the last. After, Matthew reminded his audience that God is free to reward merely on the basis of God's goodness. This demands that we put aside our checklist of obligations and focus on those who seem to have no demand on our generosity and our love.

