



Grain

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace... For it is in giving that we receive." –St Francis of Assisi

Field

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; 4 and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. 5 When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 6 And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?' 7 They said to him, "Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard.' 8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' 9 When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. 10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. 11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 12 saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' 13 But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? 14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' 16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20: 1-16

Thoughts

Who are some of the people slipping through the cracks of stimulus packages and other benefits during the pandemic? We could, of course, include our immigrant neighbors who have found refuge in the U.S. but have no options for obtaining long-term legal status within our broken immigration system.

Dr. Stephanie Mitchell during our last Wednesday Noon Live program, mentioned that Emaus Lutheran Church and an interfaith coalition in Racine created a fund they reached out with to undocumented immigrants impacted by the pandemic. Many they approached responded with their own message of generosity, saying that money was tight but that there may be others with greater struggles that the fund should help first. She also gave the example of an immigrant mother who after not being able to feed her three children for a day and a half began going door to door asking for help and met one of their church members. *In case you missed our three important speakers, Attorney Mary Campbell, Ms. Marisol Fuentes de Dubon, & Dr. Stephanie Mitchell you can click [HERE](#).*

In our Gospel lesson, the landowner pays the laborers who worked for one hour the same amount as those who worked all day. Who were these late-comers standing around waiting for employment but securing an opportunity only for a short time? Were they part of a group that regularly slipped through the cracks? The kingdom of God is the gift of grace releasing us from our sense of fairness based upon our particular privileges. It is the scenery of generosity. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy