

Homily for 25th Sunday A

I think this is one of the most difficult *Gospels* ... at least for me it is,
Maybe for you too.

We might say of this *Gospel*, "This isn't fair!" Someone who works a whole day gets the same pay as someone who works only one hour.
"This isn't fair."

But Jesus tells us it isn't about fairness.... or even Justice...
It is about *God's* mercy and generosity.
The first reading summed it all up. "*God's* ways are not our ways."

Jesus is addressing this story to his disciples, to those who have left everything and are following him. Peter has just asked Jesus,
" Here we have put everything aside to follow you. What can we expect from it?"
In other words, "We will be rewarded, won't we?? "

Jesus wants them to know that they will not merit a greater reward than those who would follow him later.

What bothers us in this story is that there is not equal pay for equal work.
The landowner wants to be generous. He asks, "Are you envious because I am generous.?"

God's generosity will never make sense to us. *God's* ways are not ours.

No matter hard we work or how hard we try, we can never earn *God's* love or salvation through our own efforts.

God freely loves us,
God freely welcomes us all,
Sinners and latecomers,

As well as the upstanding and hardworking
That is the extravagant nature of Diving Mercy.

Generosity is not about fairness
Who has earned what,
Who deserves what
Whether everyone gets the same.

It's about an unexpected gift!
No strings attached
No expectation that it be paid back
Or that one should feel indebted

Generosity is all about the Giver, not what is given.

This story tells us about the kingdom..
All are welcome, whenever or however they come
It tells us about God, like the landowner..
How incredibly Generous God is to us
It certainly has a surprise to it
We are surprised that the latecomers receive the full day's pay
It challenges us
How generous are we?
How do we judge others or compare ourselves?
Are we envious of others good fortune?
God's ways are not our ways.
God's ways are mercy and generosity.