

Dear Families:

Today we continued our study of the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus is taking on the role of teacher. He teaches using this parable:

Once there was a master who owned a vineyard. He went out early in the morning to look for workers. He found men standing in the town and offered them one denarius if they would do a day's work in his vineyard. They agreed, and set off to work. The master went back into town again later that morning, at noon, the afternoon, and later in the day. Each time, he found more people willing to follow him to his vineyard to work. At the end of the day, the master had his manager call the workers in to receive their pay, beginning with the most recent hires. The people hired late in the day and in the afternoon each received a denarius. The first workers hired were excited- this surely meant that they would receive more than promised as they had worked the longest. But they, too received a denarius. The morning workers grumbled that it wasn't fair. The Master said to them, "Did you not receive what you agreed to? Who are you to tell me how generous I should be. It's my money, and I will give it out as I see fit." Jesus concludes His lesson by reminding us that the last shall be first in Heaven, and the first shall be last.

This seems unfair on the surface, because we look at it as humans and money, not as God and His grace. God offers the same to us all: His amazing grace. As long as we go to Him, we will receive it- whether we've been working all of our lives for God, or whether we hadn't heard His call until late in our lives. God's grace is His to give- and none of us have truly earned it! We should be happy that He loves us enough to give it to us- ALL of us who choose to work for the Lord, no matter how long we've been in His service.

Thank you for joining us today!

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