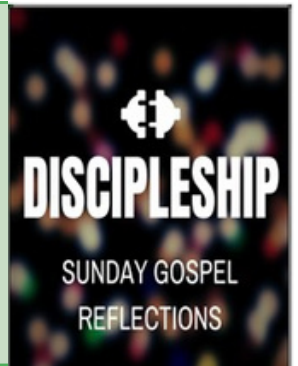


In preparation for September 20, 2026:

Twenty-fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Theme - Comparison steals joy. Grace gives it.

Verse for reflection: 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 belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous? Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."



Adults

1. Today's Gospel is a challenge for hard workers. We may feel slighted if we worked all day and then received the same wage as someone who worked less than us. How is God's way of rewarding people different from human expectations?
2. What about those of us who feel overlooked or underestimated? How does this parable encourage you?
3. Jesus is calling us to replace competition with gratitude, humility, and confidence in God's perfect justice and generosity. Thinking about this, what can you do this week to practice humility? Is there someone you can serve without expecting recognition?

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Wanting grace for ourselves but merit-based judgment for others. Not understanding that we all serve the same generous God.

Teens

1. Do you think the landowner in today's parable was unfair, or generous? Why? Why do you think God's grace sometimes feels unfair?
2. When do you find yourself comparing your life to someone else's? Have you ever been jealous when someone else received something good? Is it difficult to celebrate someone else's success? If so, why? What gifts has God given you that you often overlook because you're focused on someone else's gifts?
3. How does knowing God loves everyone equally change the way you treat others?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: When we compare our lives, gifts and faith to other people's instead of trusting God's unique plan for our lives.

Children

1. Have you ever felt jealous of someone for having more than you do? Have you ever felt that you have been treated unfairly? Explain.
2. Who is generous to you, even when you do not always deserve it? Do you believe you have to earn God's mercy and love? Why or why not?
3. Would it make you upset if you worked all day and got the same pay as someone who only put in a few hours work? Why or why not?
4. Have you ever thought about God's love and generosity, that he forgives our sins whether we ask forgiveness right when we have done something wrong or if we carry that sin with us and only ask forgiveness right before we die? Do you think if someone commits the same sin over and over that God should continue to forgive him? Why or why not? What makes God's love different than ours?

Obstacles: Not realizing God's sense of fairness and generosity is not what the world's standard of fairness and generosity is. Thinking God judges like we do.