

God Calls Us to Work for Him

Memorial of Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

August 20, 2014

READINGS

First Reading: [EZ 34:1-11](#)

Responsorial Psalm: [PS 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6](#)

Gospel: [MT 20:1-16](#)

Homily

In our Gospel today, Jesus told a parable about the Kingdom of Heaven. In the parable, the landowner went out in search for workers for his vineyard. He started out in the morning and rounded off in the afternoon towards sundown. He did not mind if those who were called last will work for him for only an hour. The story ended up with giving them their wages. And to the surprise of those who were called first they received as much as those who worked for only an hour. It was for them unfair. But the landowner explained that:

“My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not

free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?"

Here we can learn two lessons. One is: God never stops to call His people to work for Him in His vineyard. And the other is: Those who are called and responded positively experience His generosity.



Let us go back to the parable. The landowner went out early in the morning until late in the afternoon in search for workers for his vineyard. This is teaching us that God unceasingly searches out for His people to join Him in the Kingdom of Heaven. He never stops to find us from sunrise until sundown. Working in the vineyard of God means that we work at building up His Kingdom here on earth.

The final reward of working for God is eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. This is given equally to everyone. Those who were hired late will receive the same gift as those who worked early. Receiving the gift of eternal life is not something earned. That is why it is called a gift and not a wage nor can it be claimed. God is generous when it comes to working for His Kingdom. He is way more generous at giving eternal life. No one can ever question God about this.

We learn from yesterday's Gospel that God gives a hundred times more to those who left "houses or brothers or sisters or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life" (Mt. 19:29).

We are reminded then that those who say yes to God, who are gracious to Him in many ways in order to work for Him, to live a life serving God will receive the abundance of God's material blessings here on earth and the final gift of eternal treasure in the Kingdom of Heaven.

What are your experiences of serving God? Please write below.

Say yes to God, please share His call.

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