

September 23-24, 2017
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 55:6-9 Philippians 1:20-27 Matthew 20:1-17

Our American concepts of fairness and equality are not echoed nor mirrored within the Sacred Words of Scripture. For example, within the Gospels we hear of Jesus curing assorted people afflicted with sickness but he does NOT cure everyone of illness. Jesus calls a FEW people from death back to life...but he allows most dead people to remain dead. He upturns our societal concepts of justice/revenge (an eye for an eye) with urgings for mercy, forgiveness and loving our neighbors as ourselves and as we ourselves would wish to be loved. In one striking passage Jesus tells his disciples that we will be 'rewarded' in direct measure to how we have individually lived our lives...which automatically implies wide diversity and most certainly NOT equal. This weekend Jesus shares a parable about the 'UNFAIR' (at least to many people's way of thinking) manner of a landowner compensating his workers who have individually labored for varying amounts of time....yet all receiving the same payment...those who worked all day getting the same amount as those who only worked a few hours. How VERY unfair of the landowner (at least to our way of thinking.) Too often some people may try to imagine/interpret God using our American approach toward life, consequences, results and competitive competition...striving for a payoff or REWARD for our behaviors, namely, heaven. On this first weekend of Autumn (a time of harvest and reaping what was sown long ago) it might be wise to consider that a growing relationship with Jesus....right now, today, in the here and now...is more vital than seeking the goal of heaven as some sort of ultimate retirement perk. Quite simply, the deeper, more lived, embraced and vital the relationship with Jesus is HERE, heaven becomes just gravy.

Welcome to Autumn and thank you for sharing this first weekend of the season of transition with our Santa Clara community. For those of you with children in our Faith Formation programs please take note of the **FALL Faith Formation SOCIAL approaching on Sunday, October 1st**...it is a FABULOUS experience of food, activities and presentations that will well serve the faithful growth of your family and not to be missed (and is also mandatory as part of your children's faith preparation.) Lastly, our **SAVOR THE NIGHT** evening of food, beverage, music, dancing, laughter and camaraderie is approaching on Saturday, October 14th. Please note that the 5:00pm Mass on that Saturday will be celebrated up at St. Francis School in Glynn Hall. Reservations for Savor the Night can be purchased after all our Masses this weekend or on our website. **Please keep our Jewish brothers and sisters in your prayers as they enter into their High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur** and as you do, please also remember that you are loved. FKB