



25th Sunday Ordinary Time 24th September 2023



The parable of the workers in the vineyard, which is read as this Sunday's Gospel, is a good example of the human need to feel loved for who we are, and not what we achieve, which can be a lifelong struggle for many. It digs deep into the question of self-esteem.

By telling the parable, Jesus is encouraging us to find a sense of self-worth not in comparison to others but purely in the relationship that we personally enjoy with God. Our worth, in the eyes of God, is never defined by comparing to others but simply because God loves each one of us equally, for who we are.

Work is important to us all. It provides our basic needs and it gives us psychological strength and a sense of self-worth, a sense of value. So when Jesus compares the calling of God on our lives to that of the workers in the vineyard in this parable, we see that it is an invitation for us to discover our true value as human beings; to discover a sense of identity, a sense of worth.

God wants each one of us to discover just how valuable we are and to do that, we are invited into a relationship with Him and invited into a relationship with everyone else in His family: our co-workers in God's vineyard. Because elsewhere in the Bible, particularly in Isaiah 5, the community of God – his people – is called God's vineyard. And that is how we are to understand ourselves: as co-workers together, a community together, working in and through the Church.

But there is a real twist to the story, of course: it doesn't matter if you have been a member of the Church for 20 years or 10 years, for 2 years or 2 months, or even 2 days: the reward is still the same. The reward is eternal life, and so the duration of one's participation in the Church has no bearing on the gift, the reward that God offers us. This, surely, is a huge boost for our self-esteem?

The New Testament starts with the Gospels themselves - the Scripture which details Jesus' life, actions and teachings. Each Gospel writer was writing for a different audience and so they write in different styles.

MATTHEW: This is an account of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, focusing on Jesus' role as the true king of the Jews.

MARK: This brief account of Jesus' earthly ministry highlights Jesus' authority and servanthood.

LUKE: Luke writes the most thorough account of Jesus' life, pulling together eyewitness testimonies to tell the full story of Jesus.

JOHN: John lists stories of signs and miracles with the hope that readers will believe in Jesus.

Bible



God of goodness and mercy,

Support us and guide us in these uncertain times. Look after our loved ones and all members of society who are finding times difficult and upsetting.

Let us work together with support, friendship and love. Amen.

"He who possesses God lacks nothing: God alone suffices."

St. Teresa of Ávila

In addition, this week let us pray for

- ♦ our new school community members as they continue to settle in to Springhill life;
- ♦ all those around the world whose lives are still being affected by the Covid pandemic;
- ♦ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.



Life to me is Christ.

Philippians 1