



Year A – 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time: Begrudging God’s Generosity?

***(Start with reviewing the previous meeting’s challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.)**

Let’s Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: **Mt 20:1-16a**- <https://bible.usccb.org/> - 9/24/2023, 9/20/2026, 9/23/2029

After the reading, conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, today You have shared with us a glimpse who You are and your generosity. Even if we come to the field late, You welcome us with open arms and pour out Your mercy. Help us to be willing laborers and inflame in us a desire to grow spiritually so that we may be ever grateful for the gifts you bestow on us. In Your holy name. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. What are your first thoughts after hearing this reading? Do you think the vineyard owner is being fair in how he is treating the workers?

YouTube Video: Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard with Dr. Pitre (12:08 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rsRMvwHbj7Q>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. What do you think/feel that money represents in this parable?
3. Honestly share how you feel about God welcoming late comers to the faith into heaven.
4. Why do you think/feel that God would start with the last and end with the first?
5. Put yourself in the position of the worker that worked all day and correlate that to your spiritual life. Do you feel/think there would be any reward by laboring all day versus waiting until the end?
6. This parable talks about the workers that wait until later in the day to work. Are there any ways that you, too, wait until later to grow or enhance your spiritual life?
7. Can you think of an instance that you may have begrudged God’s generosity for another person? What are some ways that we can work on not being envious of others?

Session Challenges: (Choose one or both)

- Pay attention to your thoughts about other’s gifts and successes. Make a daily concerted effort to offer thanks and praise to God for the blessings He gives others.
- Pay attention to how you speak about yourself and others. How often are the words you speak lacking gratitude? Focus on honestly and authentically highlighting other’s gifts/successes.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Dear Jesus, may we be ever grateful for the chance to enter and labor in the field. Help us to understand how to labor well with a genuine gratitude for the gifts You give us. Open our hearts and minds to become very aware of any envy present in our hearts. We invite You into those dark corners and ask You to transform them with charity. May we be especially grateful for Your loving sacrifice and open invitation to spend eternity with You. Amen.

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **Is 55:6-9**; Sunday Reading 2: **Phil 1:20c-24, 27a**