

Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year

Workers in the vineyard

INTRODUCTION

Not everyone comes to know Jesus early in their lives, for some it might happen only at the end of a lifetime. But Jesus is loving and generous, and today we learn that those who follow him will receive the same reward at the end of time: everlasting life.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

As we look at the brightness of the candle flames and prepare to listen to God's word, we remember the words of Psalm 119:

Your word Lord is a light for my path, a lamp to guide me closer to you. (Psalm 119:105)

SORRY

Listen to this story written by a wise man called Micah:

God our father has told us what we must do: be fair and honest in all we do and say; be loving and caring towards others. If we do this, then our friendship with God will last forever. (Micah 6:8)

Encourage the children to close their eyes and listen to the words of this prayer:

Forgive us, Lord, when we have let you down,
when we have forgotten
that whatever we have done to others,
we have done to you.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1.

GOSPEL (MATTHEW 20:1-15)

Jesus said to his disciples, "Early one morning the owner of a vineyard went to hire some men to work for him. He agreed to pay each of them one dollar per day.

"Late that afternoon he saw some other men who had not worked all day because no one had

hired them. He sent them to his vineyard, too, and they set to work for him.

"At the end of the day, he paid each of the workers one dollar as he had promised. Some of them began to grumble. 'Why have you paid these men the same as us, when we have worked all day in the hot sun, and they have only worked for an hour?' they said. The owner of the vineyard answered, 'We agreed that each of you would be paid one dollar per day, and I have been fair. I can choose how to spend my money, so don't complain because I have been generous.'"

DISCUSSION

A vineyard is land which is used for growing grape vines. Jesus often made up stories about vineyards to help explain about the way he wanted us to live. The vineyard was likened to the world, and the workers in the vineyard to ourselves. We work in the world, bringing the Good News to people.

How much did the owner of the vineyard agree to pay his workers? At the end of the day's work, why did some of them grumble? They felt that it was unfair of the owner to pay the same amount to all of them, when some had worked longer and harder than others. They could not understand his generosity.

Jesus is like the vineyard owner: going out to look for us, his workers, and giving us the chance to come and join him. Even if we arrive late in the day and take a long time in our lives to come to know him, we will all receive the same reward, everlasting life with him in heaven.

ACTIVITY

Draw a grapevine on a large sheet of paper. Cut out bunches of grapes and leaves. Write the individual words of the following caption on some of the bunches "Jesus is always generous." After coloring, the bunches of grapes and leaves can then be fixed onto the vine so that they can be read.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, you are always generous and kind.
Fill us with the generosity of your love
and make us more understanding.