

It's not fair!

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells the Parable of the Vineyard Workers, and we hear the cry, "It's not fair!" The landowner employs workers at different times of the day, yet at the end of the day they all receive the same wage. Those who worked longest are unhappy because they believe they deserve more. But the landowner reminds them, *"I am not being unfair to you. I am giving you what you agreed to... Are you envious because I am generous?" (Matthew 20:13).*

The workers were focused on what they thought they deserved, while the landowner was looking at things differently. He was concerned for all the workers, including those who had only been hired late in the day and still needed enough money to feed their families.

And this helps us understand God's grace. God's ways are not always our ways. As Isaiah reminds us, *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways" (Isaiah 55:8).* God's grace is freely given. We cannot earn it or make ourselves worthy of it.

God's mercy means that He does not give us the punishment our sins deserve; His grace means that He gives us what we do not deserve - *the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ (Romans 6:23).*

This Grace is most clearly seen in Jesus, who gave His life for us even though we did nothing to deserve it. Salvation is therefore within everyone's reach because: *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).*

The late workers in the parable remind us that God's Kingdom is open to everyone who turns to Him. His grace is not based on how long we have served, how good we have been, or what we have achieved. It is pure gift. God's grace may not seem fair by human standards – and thank God for that, because none of us deserve it.

So today, let us give thanks for God's amazing grace, freely offered to all. And may we never take this precious gift for granted.