

Prayer for Illumination

God, Your Word surprises, challenges and overturns. As Your Spirit nudges us out of our comfort zones, help us live with gratitude. Amen

Psalm 145:1-7 *Joyfully Sing!*

I will exalt You, my God the King; I will praise Your Name for ever and ever.

Every day I will praise You and extol Your Name for ever and ever.

Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom.

One generation commends Your works to another; they tell of Your mighty acts.

They speak of the glorious splendor of Your majesty – and I will meditate on Your wonderful works.

They tell of the power of Your awesome works – and I will proclaim Your great deeds.

They celebrate Your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of Your righteousness.

Amen

Matthew 20:1-16 *Curious Bookkeeping*

Jesus says, “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right’.

So they went.

The landowner went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around.

He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing’.

‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

The landowner said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard’.

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going to the first’.

The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day’.

But the landowner answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

So the last will be first, and the first will be last”.

Amen