



24 SEPTEMBER 2023

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week 24 September, 2023

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Next week 1 October, 2023

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

Daylight Saving

Daylight Saving starts next weekend so remember to put your clock forward on Saturday night, or you might be late for church!



Thank you to everyone who was part of our special 50th anniversary service last Sunday. It was great to see so many people who have been part of our congregation worshipping with us again, and so many past members of the music group back with us and making a joyful noise. Thanks also to Kate, Gwen, Yvonne and Jillian for a lovely morning tea.

Thank you also to the children in our child care centre who decorated our banner, they celebrated with a party day on Friday with balloons and face painting (thanks Tegan) and special party food.





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How fair is God?

Matthew 20: :1-15

Is God unfair?

Today's reading is told by Jesus to explain that rather than being unfair, God is more fair and just than we can comprehend.

The people in the parable, waiting on the streetcorner for a job, were not idlers. This was where you went to seek employment and where prospective employers went to find workers. People who were desperate to provide for themselves and their families waited hopefully for employment. Therefore, the person who was not engaged until 5 pm had been waiting all day. He had suffered disappointment when overlooked hour after hour.

We need to remember that God's way is often not our way. That is why when it came to payment, the land owner in Jesus' story rewards that last recruit for his patience, emotional distress and feelings of inadequacy and sends him home to his family with a full day's pay. What a wonderful caring person was that employer. How different to the ruthless number crunchers who balance the books by sacking workers, sometimes without notice.

I wonder who actually best appreciates God's generous grace. Is it the life-long Christian, who has walked on and off with God over many years, or a late-in-life convert?

Something had prompted Matthew's memory of Jesus' parable. He had written this to address some problems in the local church community. The early church had much to learn about the Gospel. The hardest lesson was that no one stands above another in the Kingdom of Christ. The parable makes it clear that God loves us all, whether we are old or young, whether we are long-time Christians or new to the Kingdom.

There may be times in your life, maybe even right now, when the question of God's fairness is on your mind. Health issues may be a problem for you or someone you love. Not fair! Financial woes. Not fair!

But be assured, God is fair in everything he does.

The land owner is entitled to ask the question, "Don't I have the right to do as I wish with my own money?" or "Are you jealous because I am generous?" God is a generous God. Not only does He reward those who have served Him since dawn but also those who have small kernels of faith, yet to mature.

Don't let us be like children opening Christmas presents, more intent to see whether someone got a better gift than us, but rather enjoy the gift God has given you.

Adrian