

Gospel Reflection by Nazanin Nourmohammadi, postulant

Who deserves more? Land-owner? Punctual workers or late workers? Maybe I deserve more than you? Or someone who sacrificed her life for someone else?

<Maybe the land-owner was generous to you and mean to others? What do you think? Do you see an application to your own life?

It is really confusing to answer so many questions in this part of the bible. The scripture makes us figure out who we are and what we value.

Let's see some of these challenges:

This parable describes a joyless world of work where people are hired for one day or even just one hour. There is no joy in their work, only heaviness and insecurity which produces anger and tensions. In our world too, more and more people find no joy in their work. Anxiety and hardship and complaints about work seem to be all too common.

The land-owner introduces a new style: people work hard, but their work is dignified. Those who did not manage to find work for the whole day still receive enough to safeguard their dignity and provide for their family. The rules of the kingdom are different--they go beyond strict justice and create respect, solidarity, and mercy.

Think of this love as a great waterfall. Everyone is invited to come close to it and soak in it's spray. God never stops loving us and never curtails the "water" of his kindness and love. He pours it on us no matter what or where we are standing or when we arrive. It is up to us how much we want to get wet. God has no limitation.

God gives his love, all of his love, to every person without exception. We need to open ourselves up to this love. It does not matter whether that happens early or late in life. This love can never be "earned" only accepted. The fact that late comers were only employed at the last hour does not make their needs any less than those who came earlier.