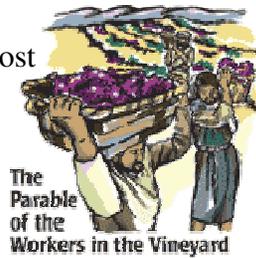




*Nurturing Faith...  
Every Day in Every Way*

September 21, 2014  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Jonah 3:10-4:11**  
**Psalms 145: 1-8 (8)**  
**Philippians 1:21-30**  
**Matthew 20:1-16**



**Is God Fair?** *Object:* Give the children a blank card on which to write "It isn't fair when \_\_\_\_\_."

"It's not fair!" Have you ever said those words? Be honest, now! Maybe your brother or sister was invited to go to the movies with a friend and you weren't invited. What was the your reaction? "That's not fair! Why can't I go too?"

Perhaps you came home from school looking forward to watching your favorite show on TV and your mom says, "You can't watch TV until you have finished your homework." "Aw mom, that's not fair! By the time I finish my homework my favorite show will be over!"

When we say, "It's not fair!" it usually means that something is not going our way or we want something that someone else has. I have a blank card for each of you. I want you to take the card and write on it, "It's not fair when" and then write something that has happened to you that you didn't think was fair.

In our Bible lesson today, Jesus told a story about a landowner who was hiring men to work in his vineyard. He hired some of them early in the morning, some in the middle of the day, and some he hired just before quitting time.

When it was time to pay the workers, he paid them all the same. Can you guess what the workers who were hired early in the morning said? Your right, they cried out, "Hey! That's not fair! You paid the workers who worked only one hour the same as those of us who worked all day."

The owner of the vineyard said, "I am not being unfair to you. I paid you what I agreed to pay you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Are you jealous because I am generous?"

The question for today is this: "Is God fair?" Of course he is! But do you know what else? The Bible tells us that he is more than fair, the Bible tells us that "God is love." Does God love us because we love him?" No, the Bible says, "This is real love-not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." Wow! That's not fair-that's love.

I'm glad that God doesn't give me what is fair, but gives me his love and grace, in spite of what I deserve!

*Father, we thank you for loving us so much that you sent your Son to give us everlasting life. In his name we pray. Amen.*

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**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. Open our hearts, O Lord, to give heed to what is said by your Son. Alleluia

*Word Search Puzzle*

D V O M O N E Y Q K J F E Q L  
R Y H Q P G Y Y V V D B S K P  
E U G V H E H E A V E N U I H  
C S S Z Q N M J N R U N N N O  
E A V I N E Y A R D R S F G U  
I M I D T R I Z V E B M A D R  
V W R S X O U F N P D T I O V  
E O S P M U Q W M E E B R M C  
D R D G B S O K R R T Q E R A  
E K R Y P D M I T H V L U S W  
H E Y V N P H E G E B Q E A A  
O R C A V S Y I C M W G P K L  
N S L H N Q R G U B A R W J K  
U H G S Z L W R U W H I F E G  
G B Z Y G D G T X R E V Q B N

MONEY	WAGES	LANDOWNER	HIRE	WORKERS	RIGHT	EQUAL	UNFAIR	KINGDOM	RECEIVED	VINEYARD	GENEROUS
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**CHALK TALK:** Give the children different colors of chalk and draw figures and words from today's lesson on the chalk board as they tell parts of today's lesson.

**VINEYARD SNACKING:** Take the children to a long table with a long white paper runner with lines drawn to represent the VINES. Raisins will be spread over the table for children to pick as "grapes" off the vines and place into a small container for their snack. A small glass of grape juice could be given to children as well, with some crackers.

**REWARD STICKERS:** Let the children decorate a piece of construction paper or make a small booklet with REWARD STICKERS that can be purchased inexpensively at any retail store with words such as GOOD JOB, or WELL DONE, or YOU ROCK, or KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. After completing their booklets or piece of paper, children will hand their paper/booklet to the person to the right of themselves to encourage a friend in class.



# PARABLE OF THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD (MATTHEW 20:1-16)



"But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go.'"  
Matthew 20:13-14a