

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

September 24, 2017

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Psalms 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16



Is God Fair? Objects: Show the children a "poster" on which is written "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 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.

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 love.

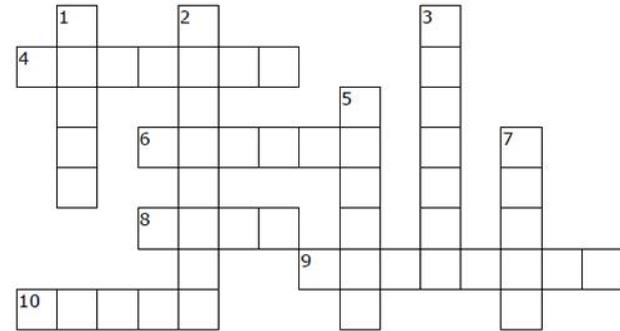
I'm glad that God gives me his love and grace, in spite of what I deserve!

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.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 4. People who labor, usually for wages or a salary
- 6. The place where God lives
- 8. A period of time equal to sixty minutes
- 9. A place where grapes are grown
- 10. Pay received for working

DOWN

- 1. Coins or bills used to pay for something
- 2. To give or share freely with others
- 3. To gripe or complain
- 5. Not playing by the rules
- 7. Two things that are of the same value

HEAVEN	GRUMBLE	MONEY	WORKERS	VINEYARD
GENEROUS	HOUR	WAGES	UNFAIR	EQUAL

HAND PAINTING: Give the child supplies to trace their hand on a sheet of construction paper. Decorate the hand with ideas from today's story with pictures and/or words such as LOVE, GRACE, EVERLASTING LIFE, or THANK YOU GOD FOR BEING FAIR. The child might also draw a cross or heart, or some other symbol on their picture of their hand.



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