

Father Rudy's Reflections

The Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 24, 2023

The Light from a Higher Window

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

We've all been there at one time or another. . . in a store and seen a small child and a parent, one who is begging for a treat or toy, while the other is trying desperately to quiet an escalating situation. Often the parent denies the child what they are vying for, and the result is what we expect. The child, now in tears, exclaims, "It's not fair. It's not fair!"

Yes, it's not fair when considering a child's viewpoint, someone who is not yet mature enough to grasp the parent's good intention or the greater good. The child's lack of perception is solely focused on a narrow perspective, based on self-gratification, pride, and an urgency of response. Could we say the same when we respond in a similar manner when God does not give us what we want, when we want it, or how we want it? Is this disappointment also based on this same narrow perspective, because, as humans, we do not understand the magnitude of God's sacred, universal plan and his kingdom of heaven?

On this Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, in today's Gospel, Matthew presents a parable of the workers in a vineyard who are paid the same wage regardless of the time spent in the landowner's employ. This Gospel from a human perspective defies logic, equity, and reasonableness, but we should try to understand this message nonetheless. We tend to comprehend this Gospel, at first, based on our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equity should be quantified. We may not consider how God sees and loves his children and that his sacred purpose of justice is based on the grace of his viewpoint. We must remember *God loves each of us, God loves all of us, and God wants the best for all our lives.*

God's plan is far beyond the light of our understanding. Yes, as we mature, we begin to understand more fully that not everyone is endowed with the same attributes, gifts, talents, wealth, and other characteristics that make one special. We gradually adopt a more adult sensibility about our lot in life; yet when the world hits us in hard moments, distress, uncertainty, or our lack of self-esteem or envy gets the better of us, we may question God about the unfairness of it all. But in the grand framework of our own Christianity, consider this: *Was it fair that our Lord had to suffer and die on the cross for our sins to save us? Yet, he did just that and with complete love in his heart.*

God sees us from a higher window than we can reach here on earth. At times, it may seem God is acting like a harsh parent who does not give us what we are asking for. But remember, we are God's children, whom he loves, and his more refined sense of justice *will* and *should* prevail. We are like the beggars in the vineyard before God, and we must rely only on him for sustenance. Everything comes from the goodness, mercy, and grace of God.

Yours in Christ,

Father Rudy