

Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A (20 September 2020)

Homily Helps

† Comment for the day:

In the parable in the Gospel for this Sunday, the vineyard owner hires a series of laborers at different points during the day. He then pays them all the same amount, "the usual daily wage." It's a great puzzle. That is what parables intend.

The landowner surely represents God. That in itself is serious, worth reflecting on. Too often we go about our daily human affairs thinking that the earth and all that is in it is ours to do with as we will. Instead we need to live out of the perspective that tending the earth and attending to work are tasks given to us by the vineyard owner. If we base our lives on such a perspective, then we will be able to work for what Pope Francis calls "an integral improvement in the quality of human life."

Also note that the landowner in the parable makes a point of going out to engage all those looking for work. Those who 'own' resources in our world need to engage all members of society.

However, do they all receive an adequate daily wage? Do people have to work more than one job just to make ends meet? Do the people who shape our economy do so as stewards of the vineyard or to enhance their own profits? Instead of putting profits back into businesses that would employ workers, many financiers reinvest them to become even wealthier. The Coronavirus pandemic has made the income and job inequality in the U.S. even more severe.

The "Ecology of Daily Life" and the place of "Justice between the Generations" are two themes that Pope Francis addresses in chapter 4 of *Laudato Si'*. He uses "big picture" thinking, taking into account the common good, as opposed to each person and business looking out for themselves. In the parable of the vineyard owner, he surely gained no immediate personal benefit from paying a full day's wage even to those hired in the last hours. However, doing so raised everyone up to the same level.

What if we had a society that consistently raised everyone up and empowered all? In many ways we already do. We provide public education in order to give each individual an opportunity, and in turn the entire community benefits. The more we can provide meaningful work with a just wage for all, the more everyone will feel included in "the system."

All of us need to keep expanding our vision so we learn to see as Jesus sees. How does the parable of the vineyard owner challenge us to grow in our perspective? The call of *Laudato Si'* to consider the common good and "an integral ecology" help us apply the wisdom of this perspective to contemporary circumstances. And it can improve the quality of human life for all.

† Scripture passages to note:

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

Sirach 27: My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways.... As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

Homily Helps (cont.)

† Scripture passages to note (cont.):

Psalm response: The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

Phillipians 1: Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.... If I go on living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me.

Matthew 20: The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard.... 'Why do you stand here idle all day?'

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

The limitations of the environment are compensated for in the interior of each person who feels held within a network of solidarity and belonging. In this way any place can turn from being a hell on earth into the setting for a dignified life. (#148)

Others will then no longer be seen as strangers, but as part of a *we* that all of us are working to create. (#151)

"How beautiful those cities which overcome paralyzing mistrust, integrate those who are different and make this very integration a new factor of development! How attractive are those cities which, even in their architectural design, are full of spaces which connect, relate and favor the recognition of others!" [citing *The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, page 482] (#152)

The world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us. (#159)

What is the purpose of our life in this world? What are we here for? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What needs does the earth have of us? It is no longer enough simply to state that we should be concerned for future generations. We need to see that what is at stake is our own dignity. (#160)

Furthermore, our inability to think seriously about future generations is linked to our inability to broaden the scope of our present interests and to give consideration to those who remain excluded from development. (#162)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That the Spirit lift our way of thinking to God's way of thinking and our way of doing to God's way of doing, so that we can improve the lives of all in our common home, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we and our leaders realize that the world we have received belongs not only to us but to our children, our grandchildren, and countless others that will follow, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com

Webpage: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help

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