



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

September 20, 2020

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Psalm 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

***16th Sunday after Pentecost***

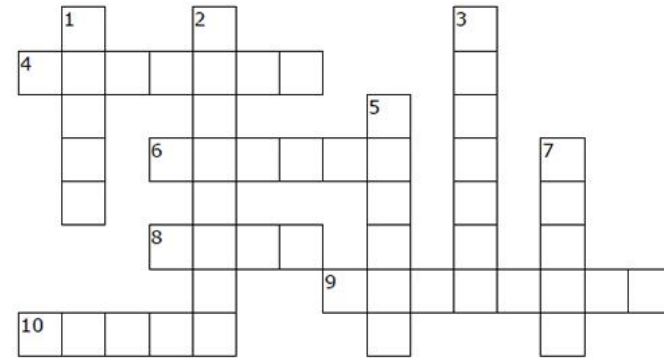
Hello friends! If your grown-ups are serving up dessert and your sibling gets half of the delicious chocolate cake that's covered in rich, ooey goey chocolate frosting topped with sprinkles and then you get a thin little slice, what are the first words that will come out of your mouth? I bet I know. "HEY! THAT'S NOT FAIR!" Am I right? I know! It's not fair, is it? We all want the same amount or WE want to be the ones with the bigger slice. When we say the words "that's not fair", it usually means that we want something that someone else has or that something is not going out way.

In our Gospel lesson from Matthew, Jesus tells the story of a landowner that doesn't seem quite fair. The landowner hired workers to labor in his vineyard. Some, he hired at the beginning of the day, some in the middle, and some at the end of the day. When it was time to pay them, he paid them all the same. Guess what those workers said? "HEY! THAT'S NOT FAIR!". The landowner paid the same wage to those who worked only one hour and those who worked all day long. But it was the landowner's money, right? Doesn't he get to decide how to spend it? He paid the workers what he agreed to pay them and he was generous. Do you think that's fair?

The question for today is this: Is God fair? Of course, God is fair! But do you know what else? The Bible tells us that God is more than fair; the Bible tells us that "God is love." Does God love us because we love God? No, the Bible says, This is real love—not that we loved God, but that God loved us first and every day, God showers us with mercy, forgiveness, and grace. Wow! That's love. I'm glad that God gives me his love and grace, in spite of what I deserve!

Loving God, you are fair and wise and love us beyond measure. We thank you for the grace and mercy that you give us every day. Help us to be gracious with all whom you put on our path. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***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

**Activity:** This week, practice generosity. Give a sibling a bigger portion, share your lunch with someone, send part of your allowance to the church for the Sunday School fund. We have so much that there is always enough to share.

**Discussion Question** Have you been treated unfairly? How did that make you feel?

**Family Table Prayer for September:**

Loving God you grant the seasons  
 Colors change and leaves fall  
 Bless us with all that we need  
 So that we can share with one and all.  
 Amen.

**September Memory Verse:** Don't get tired of helping others. You will be rewarded when the time is right, if you don't give up. Galatians 6:9

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

