

A priest and a lawyer died and went to heaven. They were met by Saint Peter at the gate, who told them he would be giving them some transportation to get around in. He gave the lawyer a big white limousine. The priest was given a bicycle. The priest said "wait a minute" you gave the lawyer a limousine and me a bicycle. Why is that? St. Peter replied, oh we get a lot of priests in Heaven, but this is the first time a lawyer has made it.

Dear Friends,

As we live in this world, we are all blessed and privileged to enjoy the good life. Some are more or less depends on where we live. The world is not equal, it is natural. Humans made it more as they like. We fix some standards in our mind for our living. Sometimes it is a family or community. For example, if you live in this county, you have some do's and don'ts. That is standard for the county. It is invariably applied to all those who want to live in the community.

Today's readings teach the difference between human standards and divine standards. Mostly we talk about the Generosity of God, but we try not to realize our standards. In the first reading, Isaiah brings God's words: My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways. The difficulties arise when we as disciples of God try to contain God to a design of our own making. God cannot be held to one framework. For instance the limitless mercy of God defies any form of human boundaries.

Today's Gospel teaches the lesson of God's standards to human expectation. This tells when a measurement is applied to normal human activity is applied to God, both act on a strikingly different playing field. God has a wider horizon, a more perfect ability to see things that we do not see. As human beings we become the older brother of the prodigal son forgetting all the graces that we need has been given to us. The question we should ask ourselves is very straightforward: Are you envious because I am generous?

We need to answer this question. There is no privilege or honor before God. All are equal before God. In God's standards, he looks for souls all the times. He gives the fair and just prizes to all according to their needs and deeds. He never compares us with anyone as we do. The another standard of ours is have more than what is needed or expecting more to accumulate.

This parable may not be a guide for running the business, rather it tells us to how to treat others in life or how God treats everyone equally. God never hides anything. That's why the last were given the wage first, so that they also know what God does.

This parable speaks of the different characters of the owner. 1) He is very just in his agreement of the wage. He did not give low wage to anyone. 2) He keeps on searching constantly for workers at different timings. That expresses his thirst for people. 3) He is very generous and merciful towards the marginalized. Here revealed is the point of social justice. Pope Francis says: "The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel." St. Paul says that he lives for Christ.

Let us take three lessons for life today

- 1) Never claim any special honor or special place before God.
- 2) Never look down at people. Respect them as they are.
- 3) We are all created equally. God will do his due for us.

Let us understand the generosity of God and the blessings that we get from him because we are his disciples.