

Rectoría San Juan de Dios
XXV Sunday of Ordinary Time-Cycle A
Is 55, 6-9; Psalm 145; Phil 1, 20-24.27; Mt 20, 1-16
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Let Us Enjoy the Wages of Love

Jesus is the landowner in the story; He is the only one who can give meaning to what we do, because it is only if we work for love that we will recognize at the end of the day that our pay is just, that the value of what we do, whether earning a living, living our vocation in the family, or working for the kingdom of God, is not in working for a daily wage, but for the gift of God's love that allows us to become part of a greater scheme of work where our small actions, at any hour, find their full meaning.

How important it is today to think about the value of what we do and the way in which we serve others, especially when we live in a time in which many work by the law of minimum effort or the law of personal advantage and, at times...the law of the jungle!

We are called in this epoch of human history, probably in the twilight of human history or the twilight of our lives, and we are called to earn the same daily wage as those who were called at the beginning of the day. Thus is the kingdom of God; we will earn the same wage as the disciples of Jesus and as each one who has been part of the work for the people of God.

Today we want to consider the moment our life in which we were hired. At what moment of your life were you hired by Jesus? Are you in the twilight of your life? Each one of us can be happy because at the moment we are

reached by Christ, whether at dawn, at noon, at mid-afternoon, or at dusk, the Lord finds us useful and wants us to do our part.

We can think about three ideas that will help us to find the value of our work:

1-Let us respond to the call.

My work achieves greater meaning only if I discover that I was called to collaborate with the owner of the vineyard; if I discover that the Lord's thoughts and ways are above mine; and that he hires me to live my life as a work that transcends.

How important it is to understand from the first reading from Isaiah that the Lord seeks us at every hour of our lives, in the best moment, so that we give up our own ways and our own plans to work for His plans! Can there be anything greater than knowing myself called to participate in the mysterious plan of God?

2- Let us work from the Gospel.

The tension that Paul feels between dying or living demands that we ask the same question: What value do I give to my work while I am alive, and what value to my desire to transcend in love by way of death? We can answer that the criterion of value between one and the other choice is found in grace more than in the justice of a payment.

The value of our work is determined by Christ and His plan; it is not directly proportional to the daily pay that is always very poor, but to the joy of working for God in the communication of love. What is the difference between our work as believers and the work of those who live without a transcendent vision? It is love, the certainty that every work that I accomplish, whether to earn a living, to serve my

vocation in the family, or to work for the spread of the Gospel, is a unique work in which I give nothing but myself; I share myself and I communicate the love of God who wants to give love to those I serve, through me.

Each one of us can confirm that payment for what we have done in God is greater than just an economic reward; that what we have done in love returns us to our identity: an artist sees himself reflected in his work of art; the value of the participation of a musician in a symphony is not found only in the notes that he himself has contributed, but in his integration as part of the whole symphony, in the communication of himself in each note that comes from his instrument to complete the whole; a housewife holds, with her trembling hands, the professional title of her daughter. She sees herself reflected in her—her daughter is her handiwork—and just by contemplating her, she is receiving her pay.

3-Let us administer the payment.

How much has God paid us? Would there be someone who could accuse Him of being unjust in His payment? Does God owe you something? Are you worth more?

Today we receive the same payment that Peter, Paul, John, and all the disciples received: a daily wage of glory. The payment is the participation in the love of God that culminates in eternal life. It is He who gives meaning to the twilight of our lives. When we understand that each work, each action that we carry out, does not have worth because of the quantity, the quality, the seniority, the function, or the performance, but only because it is part of the plan of the owner of the vineyard. In the unfathomable plan of God, we know that we were paid.

Having the payment in our hands, appearing in front of the owner of history and the owner of our story, we can begin to enjoy our salary and share it generously with others. The time of our workday is today, and this is an event so great that it marks a before and an after.

Let us value what we do today, tomorrow, and always; we are being hired.