

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This story seems to be really unfair. To tell the truth, the attitude of the landowner is shocking indeed. This is not about capitalism, we see, but then what is this story all about?

Great amount of people think that they have always been undervalued. They think themselves real losers. Whatever they start they have no good results, and feel useless in the eyes of other people. And they become one with this opinion about themselves.

Other people have great success in life, and they believe that their personal values are clearly reflected by their good results. These people either secretly or openly very often despise on those who have no success in life no good results.

In the parable of Jesus, although they had no big results, those workers who joined very late to the work have a great estimation by the landowner. They have no great products in work, no big success, so they might have been surprised by the amount of their daily salary. So are those who came to work very early in the morning and got the same amount like the latecomers.

Jesus' parable gives hope to those who feel losers in life all the time. They always have a last chance in front of God. They are not useless. Even though they worked less, they got the same evaluation. How important it must have been for him to finish the grape picking on time.

God is truthful in his generosity. He cannot deny himself, cannot behave in merchant's way. He gives the same amount even for the losers of the day, just because his harvest is ready on time.

But what about the other side? Those who worked hard all day in the vineyard seem to be really disappointed about the landowner's decision. Jesus' parable is an invitation for them to be pleased of what they have, of what they agreed on in the morning with the landowner. This is an invitation to be happy of what they received and – at the same time – to be generous towards the losers, and towards the generosity of

the landowner, and be happy about the harvest that is more important than their grumbling.

Jesus invites us to realise that even though we are successful, we are always dependent of God's generosity. Just like those people who for the first sight seem to be losers. In front of God there is no distinction between the two sides: we all are of His children there is no point in comparing each other according to our own measures. We share the joy of his harvest.

We all have received from the Lord everything what we have had. We cannot be measured according to our successes, efforts or not even our hard work. God has only one measure: that is his own generosity, his own love. We must be really happy about this.

This is my freedom of joy in God: I do not have to see myself and other people in a measuring way. The hope of God's generosity overwrites our earthy rivalries. Rivalry is simply the attitude of human beings. God has no respect of it. His generosity is much higher above our human aspects.

All of us belong to the Lord – this is the only measure that counts. This is really a new perspective. We are invited to work out of generosity of the Lord, and we receive everything out of it. We should not be rivals any more, but we are invited to work in the same vineyard.

Jesus mentions this already in his Sermon on the Mount, written in Matthew chapter 5. Let us remember: we are invited to be the children of the Lord, who *„causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.“*

And let us remember: God's love for us is great: he sent us Jesus to invite us to his vineyard to fulfil his harvest.

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Fr. Attila Thorday
(thorday@gmail.com)