

I was blessed to grow up in a home on a large lakeside property on Vancouver Island.

我很幸運能在溫哥華島一個大型湖畔的房子里長大。

Our youth and young adults were able to visit there last summer, and I’m sure they would agree that it is one of the most beautiful places you could ever imagine.

去年夏天，我們的青少年和年輕人能夠到那裡，我相信他們會同意這是你能想像到的最美麗的地方之一。

However, I didn’t always feel it was such a blessing.

然而，我並不總是覺得這是一種祝福。

Because with a large property comes a lot of work.

因為大房子和大的園地會帶來很多工作。

And my parents expected us kids to help with this work.

我的父母希望孩子們能幫忙做打理。

Because I was the oldest child, I was often assigned the heaviest tasks.

因為我是最大的，所以我經常被分配最繁重的任務。

And so there were many occasions that I would complain that the division of labor amongst my siblings was completely unfair.

所以很多時候，我會抱怨我的兄弟姐妹之間的分工是完全不公平的。

I can remember many sunny afternoons when rather than swimming in the lake, I was pushing the lawn mower across the huge expanse of grass in front of the lake.

我記得許多陽光明媚的下午，我沒有在湖裡游泳，而是推著割草機穿過湖前的大片草地。

It was not flat or manicured like some city lawns.

它不像一些城市的草坪那樣平坦或修剪整齊。

It was about half an acre (or about 2000 square meters), mostly on a slope, and it was full of bumps from the roots of the giant trees that surrounded it.

它大約有半英畝（或約 2000 平方米），大部分在斜坡上，周圍巨樹的根部充滿了顛簸。

And while I was asked to mow the hilliest, bumpiest, largest part of the lawn, my younger sisters got to mow the smaller flat portions, right next to the house.

當我被要求修剪草坪上最丘陵、最顛簸、最大的部分，而我的妹妹們修剪房子旁邊的較小的平坦部分時。

The entire arrangement was completely unfair!

整個安排完全不公平！

Never mind that it was one of the most beautiful places you could ever work in.

不理會這是您可以工作過的最美麗的地方之一。

Never mind that this huge lawn provided room for us to play team sports right in our own front yard.

不理會這個巨大的草坪為我們在自己的前院提供了空間進行團隊運動。

Never mind that if I ever got too hot from pushing the mower, I could simply jump in the lake to cool off.

不理會如果我因為推割草機而變得太熱，我可以隨時跳進湖裡降溫。

Never mind that my parents worked much harder than we kids ever did.

不理會我的父母比我們這些孩子更辛苦。

Never mind that my parents provided everything we ever needed.

不理會我的父母提供了我們需要的一切。

Simply because my younger sisters had easier jobs than I did, I was convinced that my circumstances were completely unfair.

僅僅因為我的妹妹們的工作比我容易，我確信我的情況是完全不公平的。

Woe was me – how unfortunate to be stuck living on large lakefront property!

我有禍了——被困在大型湖畔物業是多麼不幸！

How unfair!

多麼不公平！

I must admit, when I come to today's Scripture, I feel much the same.

我必須承認，當我讀到今天的經文時，我的感覺大致相同。

My first reaction is "that's not fair!".

我的第一反應是「這不公平！」

Yes, I know that the first workers received what they had agreed upon.

是的，我知道第一批工人收到了他們同意的東西。

I know that no one got less than what was agreed upon.

我知道，沒有人得到的比商定的少。

But how can it be fair that those who worked a full day in the heat of the sun get the same pay as those who only worked a single hour?!

但是，那些在烈日下工作一整天的人與那些只工作一小時的人得到相同的報酬，這怎能是公平呢？！

If we tried to do this today, someone would surely complain, and the labor relations board would soon be knocking on our door.

如果我們今天試圖這樣做，肯定會有人抱怨，勞資關係委員會很快就會敲我們的門。

How can the events in this parable be seen as fair?

這個比喻中的事件怎麼能被視為公平的呢？

And if the landowner is supposed to represent God, does that mean God is not fair?

如果家主指的是上帝，這是否意味著上帝不公平？

After all, those who receive Christ on their deathbed, even after living a completely selfish life, go to the same Heaven as someone who spent their entire life serving God faithfully.

畢竟，那些在臨終前接受基督的人，即使在過著完全自私的生活，之後也會像一個一生都忠實地事奉上帝的人一樣，去同一個天堂。

Is God unfair?

上帝不公平嗎？

The thief who died on the cross beside Jesus went to the same Heaven as saints who serve God faithfully all their lives.

死在耶穌旁邊的十字架上的賊，與一生忠心侍奉神的聖徒同歸於天堂。

Is God unfair?

上帝不公平嗎？

God is fair.

上帝 是 公平的。

But we need to consider carefully what we think is fair.

但我們需要仔細考慮我們認為什麼是公平的。

If by "fair" we mean treating everyone equally in every way, then the landowner in today's Scripture is not fair.

如果我們所說的「公平」是指在各方面平等對待每個人，那麼今天聖經中的家主是不公平的。

By that definition we cannot truly say that God is fair.

根據這個定義，我們不能真正說上帝是公平的。

But if by "fair" we mean honoring the promises made to each individual, then the landowner, like God, is completely fair.

但是，如果我們所說的「公平」是指實現對每個人的承諾，那麼家主就像上帝一樣，是完全公平的。

However, God, and this landowner, are not only fair – they are much more than fair.

然而，上帝和這個家主不僅是公平的——他們遠遠超越了公平。

In today's Scripture, what the landowner pays each worker is no trivial amount.

在今天的經文中，家主付給每個工人的錢不是微不足道的。

We read that it was the standard amount for a day's work.

我們讀到這是一天工作的標準金額。

The landowner is giving each one the opportunity to feed and house themselves for another day.

家主給每個人提供一天的食物和住房的機會。

This is grace!

這是恩典！

The landowner doesn't owe anyone a day's work.

家主不欠任何人一天的工作。

Imagine being a laborer in that culture, getting up before daybreak, worried about whether you would find work in order to feed your family.

想像一下，在這種文化中做一個工人，在天亮之前起床，擔心你是否能找到工作來養家糊口。

You would be very excited to get hired early in the morning, because then you wouldn't need to worry about your family going hungry.

你會很高興一大早就被錄用，因為那樣你就不需要擔心你的家人會挨餓。

You could look forward to returning home with something to share with them.

你可以期待回家與他們分享一些東西。

Getting hired early would be grace!

早點被錄用將是恩典！

And which is a better way to spend your day?

哪種方式是度過一天的更好方式？

Working all day, or, as the landowner says to the last workers hired, "standing here all day long doing nothing?"

整天工作，或者像家主對最後僱用的工人說的那樣，「你們為甚麼整天在這裏閒站呢？」

Being able to work is a grace in itself.

能夠工作本身就是一種恩典。

And making a connection with the landowner was an important opportunity, which gave hope for future days as well.

與家主建立聯繫是一個重要的機會，這也為未來的日子帶來了盼望。

To enter into a relationship with a landowner, and to work with Him, was a gift of grace.

與家主建立關係，並與他一起工作，是恩典的禮物。

Whatever the pay, to get hired was much better than standing around doing nothing.

無論薪水如何，被錄用都比無所事事要好得多。

But this landowner is a little strange.

但是這個家主有點奇怪。

He doesn't seem to hire based on the needs of his own business.

他似乎不是根據自己業務的需要來招聘的。

Instead, he hires people simply because they need it.

相反，他僱用員工只是因為他們需要它。

They need employment.

他們需要就業。

The landowner simply didn't want anyone to go hungry.

家主根本不想讓任何人挨餓。

And he didn't want anyone to waste their time being idle.

他不希望任何人浪費時間閑著。

He is so generous that he makes sure that everyone gets what they need.

他是如此慷慨，以至於他確保每個人都得到他們需要的東西。

He honors his contract with the first workers, but notice that the later workers are not told in advance how much they will be paid.

他履行與第一批工人的合同，但請注意，後來的工人並沒有提前被告知他們將獲得多少報酬。

No wage is specified until they receive it.

在他們收到工資之前，沒有指定工資。

Those hired later had to simply trust the landowner's character.

後來僱用的人不得不相信家主的人格。

And when they did, they discovered that he is fair, actually far more than fair.

當他們這樣做時，他們發現他是公平的，實際上遠遠超過公平。

This landowner is, in fact, shockingly generous!

事實上，這個家主大方得驚人！

Are we not like those hired late in the day?

我們不是像後來被僱用的人嗎？

God has not offered us a contract.

上帝沒有給我們契約。

He has instead offered us a covenant relationship with Himself, where He has paid the whole price.

相反，他為我們提供了與他自己的盟約關係，在那裡他已經付出了全部的代價。

He offers to us all we need for a flourishing life.

他為我們提供了繁榮生活所需的一切。

He offers us abundant life in relationship with Him – now and throughout eternity.

他為我們提供了與他的關係中豐盛的生命——現在和永恆。

He does not specify how much work we need to do

他沒有具體說明我們需要做多少工作

– because we cannot possibly earn what He gives us.

– 因為我們不可能賺取他給我們的東西。

He simply asks that we join Him by working in his vineyard.

他只是要求我們加入他，在他的葡萄園裡工作。

And that is so much better than standing around doing nothing.

這比無所事事要好得多。

He offers us a life with purpose.

他為我們提供了一個有目的的生活。

A life where we share his grace with others.

一個我們與他人分享他的恩典的生活。

A life where we work alongside Him, in relationship with Him, step by step.

在生活中，一步一步地我們與他一起工作，與他建立關係。

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus offers us rest

在馬太福音 11：28-30 中，耶穌賜予我們安息

-- but He explains that we find this rest by taking his yoke upon us.

--但他解釋說，我們通過把他的軛加在我們身上找到了安息。

A yoke was a harness for a pair of working animals.

軛是一對工作動物的挽具。

But Jesus says “my yoke is easy and my burden is light”.

但耶穌說「因為我的軛是容易的，我的擔子是輕省的。」

The reason Jesus' yoke is easy is because He shares it with us.

耶穌的軛很容易的原因是因為他與我們分擔。

Life with Jesus is a life of service, of working with Him

與耶穌同在的生活是服侍的生活，與他一起工作的生活。

– but He does the heavy lifting.

—但他做了繁重的工作。

As we do our part, we get the joy of being able to walk step by step with Him.

當我們盡自己的一份力量時，我們會因能夠一步一步地與他同行而感到喜樂。

So even if we feel that we are like the workers in the vineyard who worked the whole long day, we get to work with Jesus.

因此，即使我們覺得自己就像葡萄園裡整天工作的工人，我們也是與耶穌一起工作。

He gives us a yoke that fits.

他給了我們一個合適的軛。

He gives us work we were meant for.

他給了我們本應做的工作。

We get to walk with Jesus all day long.

我們可以整天與耶穌同行。

Jesus made a similar point when He gave us the parable of the prodigal son.

耶穌在給我們浪子的比喻時也提出了類似的觀點。

The older brother in that parable complained that unlike his younger brother, he had worked hard and faithfully all his life. He described it as “slaving”.

這個比喻中的哥哥抱怨說，與他的弟弟不同，他一生都在努力和忠誠地工作。他將其描述為「奴役」。

His father answered, “My son...you are always with me, and everything I have is yours”. (Luke 15:31).

父親對他說：「兒啊！你常和我同在，我所有的一切都是你的。」（路加福音 15:31）

When we think we have worked hard for God’s blessings, God reminds us that we have the unmatched privilege and joy of being with Him, like a son working with his Father, side-by-side.

當我們以為我們已經為上帝的祝福而努力工作時，上帝提醒我們，我們擁有與他同在的無與倫比的特權和喜樂，就像一個兒子與他的父親並肩工作一樣。

And He freely shares all He has with his us, his children.

他自由地與我們，就是他的孩子們分享他所擁有的一切。

When we look at all God offers us, it’s clear that He is more than fair.

當我們看上帝提供給我們的一切時，很明顯他是超越公平的。

He offers us complete forgiveness from everything we’ve ever done wrong;

他為我們提供完全的饒恕，使我們從我們做錯的一切中得到寬恕；

He offers us a relationship with Him that is closer than any human relationship;

他為我們提供與他建立關係，這種關係比任何人類關係都更親密；

He offers us a meaningful life serving alongside Him;

他為我們提供一個有意義的生活，與他一起服侍；

and He offers us unimaginable joy in the life to come.

他在來世為我們提供難以想像的喜樂。

And God doesn’t ask us to pay for any of it.

上帝不會要求我們為其中任何一項付出代價。

Rather, like those hired last in today’s parable, all we need to do is trust Him.

相反，就像今天比喻中最後僱用的人一樣，我們需要做的就是信靠他。

But trusting Him doesn’t mean we stand around “doing nothing”

但信靠他並不意味著我們「無所事事」

– we get to work with Him in his vineyard!

– 我們可以在他的葡萄園裡與他一起工作！

The problem comes when we stop looking at God, and instead start looking at others.

當我們不再仰望上帝，而是開始看他人時，問題就來了。

If I had looked at all my parents provided for me, including our beautiful lakeside home, and not looked at what my sisters did,

如果我看父母為我提供的所有東西，包括我們在湖邊美麗的家，而不是看我的姐妹們做了什麼，

I would have had no reason to complain about mowing our lawn, even the entire lawn.

我沒有理由抱怨修剪我們的草坪，甚至整個草坪。

In today's Bible story, if the first workers hired had simply ignored how much the other workers were paid,

在今天的聖經故事中，如果第一批被雇用的工人只是忽略了其他工人的報酬，

they would have gone home happy, eager to share their earnings with their family.

他們會高高興興地回家，渴望與家人分享他們的收入。

Notice what their real protest is – they say to the landowner, “you have made them equal to us.”

注意他們真正的抗議是什麼—他們對家主說，「你竟待他們和我們一樣嗎？」

That's what offends them.

這就是冒犯他們的原因。

They look at others, and think they are less deserving.

他們看著別人，認為他們不配得。

But when those others are treated as their equals, they are deeply offended.

但是，當其他人被平等對待時，他們就被深深地冒犯了。

If they had ignored what others were paid, they would have gone home happy.

如果他們忽略了別人的報酬，他們就會高高興興地回家。

But when they saw what others received, suddenly their own fair salary seemed to be too small.

但當他們看到別人領到的，突然間，他們自己商定的工資似乎太少了。

When they saw how others were treated, their generous employer suddenly seemed unfair.

當他們看到別人受到的待遇時，他們慷慨的僱主突然顯得不公平。

When we look at others, we are often tempted to forget the grace shown to us, and sometimes we even accuse God of being unfair.

當我們看別人時，我們常常被誘惑忘記向我們展示的恩典，有時我們甚至指責上帝不公平。

Envy is a dangerous thing.

嫉妒是一件危險的事情。

It can consume our soul.

它可以吞噬我們的靈魂。

In verse 15, the landowner asks those who were hired first, “Are you envious because I am generous?”

在第 15 節中，家主問那些先被雇用的人：「因為我作好人，你就眼紅了嗎？」

The word translated as “envious” is literally having an “evil eye”.

翻譯為「嫉妒」的單詞字面意思是擁有「邪惡的眼睛」。

It's the same word Jesus uses in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6:22-23, when He says,

這與耶穌在馬太福音 6：22-23 的登山寶訓中使用的詞相同，當時他說：

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad (that is, if you have an ‘evil eye’), your whole body will be full of darkness...”

「眼睛是身體的燈。你的眼睛若明亮，全身就光明；你的眼睛若昏花（就是指「邪惡的眼睛」），全身就黑暗。你裏面的光若黑暗了，那黑暗是何等大呢！」

In today's parable, because of envy, first workers' eyes have become evil.

在今天的比喻中，因為嫉妒，第一批工人的眼睛變成了邪惡。

They are in danger of flooding their entire being with darkness

他們面臨著黑暗淹沒他們整個生命的危險

– the eyes of their hearts are being blinded by envy, so that they can no longer see the blessings of a day's work and a day's wage.

—他們心中的眼睛被嫉妒蒙蔽了雙眼，以至於他們再也看不到一天的工作和一天的工資的祝福。

By comparing themselves to others they are blinding themselves to all the good things they have received. 通過將自己與他人比較，他們蒙蔽了自己，看不到他們所得到的所有美好事物。

Comparing ourselves to others can easily lead to envy, which quickly blinds us to God's grace.

將自己與他人比較很容易導致嫉妒，這很快就會使我們看不到上帝的恩典。

This is why Jesus says "many who are first will be last." (19:20a).

這就是為什麼耶穌說「在前面的，將要在後了。」（19：20a）。

You'll notice that Jesus frames this parable with similar sayings about the first and last switch places.

你會注意到耶穌用類似的說法來構建這個比喻，關於前和後交換位置。

When we look around, and think we ought to be ahead of others,

當我們環顧四周，認為我們應該領先於他人時，

and instead find out that those less deserving are treated with the same grace that we are, we are tempted to react with pride.

就會發現那些不配得的人受到與我們相同的恩典對待，我們很想自豪地做出反應。

We start to think we deserve better.

我們開始認為我們應該得到更好的。

And thinking we deserve more of God's grace is the very thing that disqualifies us from receiving it.

認為我們應該得到更多上帝的恩典，這正是使我們失去接受它的資格的點。

Maybe it's not that God disqualifies us.

也許不是上帝取消了我們的資格。

Pride and envy fill our hearts with darkness, so that we become unable to receive grace.

驕傲和嫉妒使我們的心充滿黑暗，使我們無法接受恩典。

Our eye becomes evil; our soul becomes darkened.

我們的眼睛變得邪惡；我們的靈魂變得黑暗。

Because of envy, we can no longer see the free gifts of God's love for what they are.

因為嫉妒，我們再也看不到上帝的愛的白白禮物。

We think that somehow God has been unfair, and so we close the door to Him.

我們認為上帝在某種程度上是不公平的，所以我們對他關上了大門。

We shut out God, and we shut out his grace.

我們把上帝拒之門外，也把他的恩典拒之門外。

This is why those who seem to be first turn out to be last, and how the last turn out to be first.

這就是為什麼那些看似在前的人變成了在後的，以及結果在後的是成為在前的。

Jesus frames this parable with this warning about how his grace will turn things upside down.

耶穌用這個警告來構思這個比喻，關於他的恩典將如何顛倒一切。

He introduces the parable by warning us that "many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first." (19:30).

他在介紹這個比喻時警告我們，「有許多在前面的，將要在後；在後的，將要在前。」（19:30）

He concludes this parable by saying the inverse: "So the last will be first, and the first will be last." (20:16).

他用相反的話來結束這個比喻：「這樣，那在後的，將要在前；在前面的，將要在後了。」（20:16）

This is obviously an important point.

這顯然是重要的一點。

Jesus doesn't want us to miss out.

耶穌不希望我們錯過。

He doesn't want us to disqualify ourselves from receiving his generous grace.

他不希望我們失去接受他慷慨恩典的資格。

So He warns us by sharing this parable.

所以他通過分享這個比喻來警告我們。

When we start to think that we deserve God's grace, or that we deserve it more than others do, then we miss his grace completely.

當我們開始認為我們配得上帝的恩典，或者我們比別人更配得時，我們就完全錯過了祂的恩典。

On the other hand, when we recognize that we don't deserve anything, then our hearts are open to receive the gifts of God's grace

另一方面，當我們認識到我們不配得到任何東西時，我們就會敞開心扉接受上帝恩典的禮物。

– forgiveness, a loving relationship with God, a new sense of purpose for our lives, and one day a warm welcome into God's eternal home.

– 饒恕，與上帝的愛的關係，我們生活的新目標感，以及有一天熱烈歡迎進入上帝永恆的家。

A heart blinded by envy cannot receive these things.

一顆被嫉妒蒙蔽的心無法接受這些東西。

So let's never compare ourselves to others.

因此，我們永遠不要將自己與他人比較。

Let's fix our eyes upon Jesus.

讓我們定睛於耶穌。

Let's focus on the overflowing generosity of our loving Heavenly Father.

讓我們專注於我們慈愛的天父的慷慨。

When we take an honest look at how much He has given us, and how little He asks of us, we can only say that He is more than fair.

當我們誠實地看待祂給了我們如此地多，而祂對我們的要求卻很少時，我們只能說祂是公平的。