Space for God Fair Wages



PREPARATION

• In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit •
I will proclaim the name of the Lord; how glorious is our God! He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair.
He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is!
Deuteronomy 32:3-4

WORSHIP

Are we saying, then, that God was unfair? Of course not! For God said to Moses,
"I will show mercy to anyone I choose,
and I will show compassion to anyone I choose."
So it is God who decides to show mercy.
We can neither choose it nor work for it.
Romans 9:14-16

CONFESSION

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.
But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites.
Colossians 3:24-25

MEDITATION – Matthew 20:1-16*

"For the Kingdom of Heaven is like the landowner who went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work.
"At nine o'clock in the morning he was passing through the marketplace and saw some people standing around doing nothing. So he hired them, telling them he would pay them whatever was right at the end of the day. So they went to work in the vineyard. At noon and again at three o'clock he did the same thing.
"At five o'clock that afternoon he was in town again and saw some more people standing around. He asked them, 'Why haven't you been working today?'
"They replied, 'Because no one hired us.'
"The landowner told them, 'Then go out and join the others in my vineyard.'
"That evening he told the foreman to call the workers in and pay them, beginning with the last workers first. When those hired at five o'clock were paid, each received a full day's wage. When those hired first came to get their pay, they assumed they would receive more. But they, too, were paid a day's wage. When they received their pay, they protested to the owner, 'Those people worked only one hour, and yet you've paid them just as much as you paid us who worked all day in the scorching heat.'
"He answered one of them, 'Friend, I haven't been unfair! Didn't you agree to work all day for the usual wage? Take your money and go. I wanted to pay this last worker the same as you. Is it against the law for me to do what I want with my money? Should you be jealous because I am kind to others?'
"So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last."

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY

Read	Slowly, several times.
Reflect	What does the text say?
Respond	How does it relate to my life?
Rest	I welcome God's healing and renewal.

ANCHORING PRAYER

You are fair; You are kind.

REVIEW OF THE HEART

What blessing have I received that I don't feel I deserve?
What do I find "unfair" about life?
Who do I envy?

WISDOM

But as for you, be strong and courageous, for your work will be rewarded.
2 Chronicles 15:7

Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are each responsible for our own conduct. Galatians 6:4-5

TESTIMONY *What is God saying to me?*

INTERCESSION *Prayers for the Church, for others, and for me.*

BENEDICTION

For since the world began,
no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like you,
who works for those who wait for him!
• Amen •
Isaiah 64:4

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY
Be still and quiet before God.
Seek the Holy Spirit's filling and guidance.
Speak, act, and serve from a listening heart.

PermaneSED (Abide) Kurt D. Peters. **Bold** portions to be read in unison. *Lectionary, Year A
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