

† In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Today's Gospel parable is about God's extraordinary generosity. Because we usually end up shaking our heads when we hear this parable, truly God's generosity is beyond all human understanding. And perhaps this is why one of its most remarkable manifestations is often overlooked.

The landowner in the parable gave those workers real work to do in his vineyard, even if the reward far outweighed the actual amount of work and Christ does the same thing with us. He allows us to make a real contribution to the eternal happiness of ourselves and our neighbors through loving Him, serving others, and building up the Church.

This is one of the biggest differences between Christianity and many other religions.

In eastern religions, for example, where they believe in reincarnation, human actions on earth have no lasting effect. If someone acts rightly, they will dissolve out of existence and be absorbed into nothingness after death - escaping existence and escaping suffering. But those who act wrongly, according to reincarnationism, are simply recycled into some other form of existence, and the recycling continues until they finally get it right and are then dissolved into Nirvana. This false doctrine drains human activity from any real meaning.

But in Christ, our actions really do have meaning. We are members of his Mystical Body; we are His hands, feet, eyes, and mouth. When we serve those around us, we are serving Christ and storing up an eternal treasure in heaven. When we stay faithful to Christian principles even under pressure, humiliation, and persecution, we are glorifying God and adding to our heavenly reward. When we help others

Septuagesima Sunday
January 28, 2024

come closer to Christ through our words, prayers, and example, we are increasing the everlasting joys of heaven for them and for us.

This, dear brothers and sisters, is the privilege Christ has generously given us by making us His fellow workers in God's Kingdom. Certainly then, today, let's thank Him for it, and let's promise that this week, we'll do our best to live up to it.

† In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.