

What's Happening in Sunday School?

The readings for today focus on letting God take care of his business while you take care of yours. In both the Jonah story and the Gospel we see people who are troubled by what seems to be unfairness in how God and the vineyard owner are dealing with their people. Jonah is upset that God has relented in his punishment of the Ninevites. The early workers are upset that the late workers are paid as much as they are for much less work. In the end of both passages we see that the upset person is worrying themselves with other people's business, over things that don't even affect them. Sometimes we don't understand how God does things, but the important thing to know is that he deals with us fairly and that's all we need to concern ourselves with. Jonah followed God's instructions and told Nineveh to repent, which they did. Jonah should be satisfied that he did God's bidding and was successful. Instead he let himself get wrapped up in what he thought the Ninevites deserved. This was God's business and not his. In the vineyard, the early workers worked a full day and were paid fairly for their work. They should have been satisfied with having done an honest day's work and having been compensated fairly for it. Instead they let themselves get wrapped up in how others were compensated for their work. This was the vineyard owner's business and not theirs. What we need to concern ourselves with is how we are serving God and how he treats us. God is generous in his judgment of all, more than we deserve and at his prerogative.

Digging Deeper

- In what way was Jonah already guilty of disobedience before ever seeing the Ninevites whom he felt deserved punishment?
- Have you ever received a benefit you didn't deserve?
- What are things that the vineyard owner's payment could symbolize?

Proper 20, Year A FUN PAGE

PARABLE OF THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD (MATTHEW 20:1-16)

