

Dear Living Word Family,

In the midst of all the busy-ness that is normal in Sept (lots of things "starting up"...🤖) let's not lose our focus on our weekly ways we can "Live the Word"....

1. Please pray first, then reread Matt. 20: 1-16.
2. The overall goal in this and the texts before and after is for us to let Jesus introduce us to how we can come to **know and be part of His Kingdom** -- and His "how to" instructions can be VERY challenging. But as going to any new place, destination, in this case God's Kingdom, we would do well to learn as much as we can about where we are going. **Verse 1: "For the Kingdom of Heaven is like..."**
3. In God's kingdom **our human priorities and desires get turned upside down**. We are to love our enemies, give up all that might be required to follow Him -- maybe everything, and the first are last and last are first.
4. Just as the all-day laborers in the text resent the Masters' very generous granting of full wages to those He called to work late, **so our human nature wants to cry out "It ain't fair!"**. But God (the Master in the story) calls us to **let Him do things HIS way and trust He knows what He is doing**.
5. **Thanks be to God He isn't "fair"** --because that would condemn us to death for our sin, **but He turns things upside down and sacrifices Himself on a cross to pay for our sins**.
6. So let's **humble ourselves** to simply join God in loving even those who are seemingly undeserving : the strugglers, the addicted, society's "losers". Once we become humble in this way, we are empty of "ourselves" and ready to be filled with God. **You can't fill what isn't empty!**
7. **Start small** this week in getting used to practising God's way of doing things -- forgiving, humbling ourselves to others needs, and letting God decide who's deserving and who isn't. Maybe it's the guy who cuts in front of you on Stockton Hill, maybe it's the lady with a full grocery basket in front of you in the "20 item" check out 🛒, maybe it's the friend or family member who just doesn't seem to be measuring up to our societies' competitive standards --not "having something to show for themselves". etc.
8. Every day at 5 pm, reread this text and ask God to give you a full measure of His Spirit to enable you to progress daily in learning to live by His Kingdom rules, not ours.

*Reminders: Don't forget our church is simulcasting (in our sanctuary) **"The Return"** a call to national repentance live from our nation's capitol Friday night 5-8 pm .and Saturday 11 am to 1:25 pm. Join us for all or part of this event to "turn our nation around" before God --to **RETURN TO HIM**.*

**May the Lord bless and keep each and everyone of you this week!**

Pastor