

SERMON SUMMARY

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Matthew 20:1-16

“The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard”

Before the Master called, the workers were standing _____, which is a fancy way of saying, they were doing _____.

God’s kingdom is like people who are in great need but doing nothing because there is _____ they can do to meet their own needs.

You are in need of God’s _____.

There is nothing you can do to gain God’s _____.

Though we are doing nothing to gain the Kingdom of Heaven, yet God seeks us out and _____ us to believe in Christ and _____ in His vineyard.

In the Divine Service, God is calling you through _____ and _____.

The rich young man wanted to know what he must _____ to gain eternal life.

There was _____ that he was willing or able to do to gain eternal life.

Jesus said, “Many who are _____ will be _____.”

Your _____ nature says, “You can do something! You’re not _____ and hopeless.”

But, you _____ by your own reason or strength, believe in Jesus or _____ to Him.

There is nothing you can do to _____ God’s favor. _____ must do it.

You were last, but have been made first by the _____ of God.

When they are paid, the first workers, think that the master has treated them _____. Now they feel that they _____ more.

When we believe that we DESERVE the gifts of God, we forget that we are the _____ and the _____.

When we believe we DESERVE the gifts of God, we can easily become _____ toward God when _____ who are, in our sight, less deserving also receive the _____ gifts of God.

We praise God also, for His generous _____ toward others---even when they don't deserve it...because we don't _____ it either!

Questions

1. What were the laborers doing before the Master called? (And what can you do to meet your own spiritual need and gain eternal life?)

2. How is God's generosity toward us described in this parable? How has God been generous toward you? (Seeking you while you were a sinner, Calling you by the Gospel, Making you a child of God in Holy Baptism, Forgiving your sins, Giving you daily bread, etc.)

3. What can go wrong in our attitude toward God and others if we believe we have earned or deserve God's gifts?

4. Any questions or comments about this sermon?