

A Short Teaching on Being Valuable
by Deacon Gerry Palermo

Greetings on this the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: IS 55:6-9; PS 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; PHIL 1:20C-24, 27A; MT 20:1-16A

The parable of the Landowner who wanted workmen to work in the vineyard is a wonderful parable. It speaks clearly of God's benevolence and abundant grace. It speaks well to the need for just relation between workers.

It also speaks to the divine desire to return us to the Garden and work side-by-side with the Lord.

At the 6 o'clock, 9 o'clock, 12 o'clock, 3 o'clock, and 5 o'clock hours he summons the laborers to the Joy of working with Him again in the Garden. He wants us to enjoy the breezy cool of the evening sunset of Palestine.

Some who came at the 6 o'clock hour have forgotten their Joy. But they too are reminded all day long that it is Joyful to work in the Garden with God.

I was doing document research for a project from many years ago. The priest in charge now needs some engineering documents and load calculations made 15 years ago. It was a Joy to do the research and see all the old documents and photographs. What a beautiful garden it was indeed.

Maintain your Joy by conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ. This is Paul's suggestion in the letter to the Philippians. And it is my suggestion to you.

You are worth more than many sparrows says the Lord. As a Friend of God you are given to help sculpt and shape and design the garden anew. It pleases God that this is so. The LORD is just in all his ways and holy in all his works. The LORD is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.

Peace be with you.

Deacon Gerry