



PORTSMOUTH and WINCHESTER DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION



Collective Worship 2 – 16 September 2011

Matthew 20:1-16
The workers in the vineyard

Matthew 20:1-16 - The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

1. "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard.
2. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.
3. "About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing.
4. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.'
5. So they went. "He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing.
6. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'
7. "'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'
8. "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'
9. "The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius.
10. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius.
11. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.
12. 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'
13. "But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?'
14. Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you.
15. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'
16. "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Worship – Major theme 'IN' with a little bit of 'OUT'

Music on Entry

A possibility might be 'Hi ho, hi ho it's off to work we go' – Snow White and the 7 dwarves

Start the worship with a Christian Greeting

e.g. Lighting a Candle and saying "The Lord be with you." "*And also with you.*"

There may be singing

Suggestion: 'Just the same' - Songs for every Day - Out of the Ark Music, www.outoftheark.co.uk/songs-for-every-day.html

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The Story

Get some small pieces of paper like confetti.

Sprinkle them on a small area of the floor in front of you.

Ask for three volunteers to pick up the pieces.

As payment – here is a sweet or small chocolate bar.

Let these children get busy. When they have nearly finished invite a fourth volunteer to come and pick the last few pieces up.

And here is your reward – which is the same as the others.

- Ask the question “Is that fair?”

Use the Bible story, tell it using your own words, in as short and accessible form as you can to demonstrate that Jesus told a version of this story to the people of his time.

- Ask the children “I wonder why Jesus told this story?”
 - Remembering that Jesus always told stories that meant something.
 - That he often told stories that have many meanings.
 - That every idea is valued – it is what they think that matters. If you get a strange answer – your reply can be “I wonder?”

If you are aware of the Godly Play approach to parables the story teller always brings a parable out in a golden box, they introduce the parable as a gift we have always had, a gift that doesn't need a birthday or Christmas to be given. That the parable is in a box with a close fitting lid because a parable can sometimes be hard to get into, but it's worth trying, sometimes very many times, until the parable seems to make sense to you. Part of the value of this approach is to remove fear of 'wrong' answers and encourage thinking.

There are many interpretations of this story so the one I propose below is a suggestion based on why I think it can be used as part of 'IN' with a little bit of 'OUT'.

- Look around the hall, are there some new faces?

Schools are always getting new children and now is a time when many new children start at school, In year R or year 3 or year 7.

All of these new people are full members of our school – it doesn't matter how long they've been here – that doesn't make them less or more important. We are all equal.

- In what ways do we show in our school that everyone is treated the same?
 - Hopefully you get something that includes the school values, rules and rewards apply to everyone.
 - Encourage a response from the adults too.

The Bible story could be used to explain that for Christians the Love of God is given equally. Even if you arrive late, seem to be less important or seem to have done less – God shares His love among us equally.

And that is yet another reason why in a Church of England School we treat everyone as special. This might mean that Year 6 can't claim sole rights to play the football on the playground – we need to find ways of valuing all the children and adults and making sure everyone is treated fairly.

Prayer

Ask the children if one of them would like to try to put into a few words the heart of this story.

Below are two prayers from the Culham Website.

Dear God,

Thank you for creating us and for everything that makes us unique and unlike anyone else. Help us to remember that everything we do, think and say becomes part of how other people see us. Help us to work and play together at school so that the time we spend together is happy.

Amen.

Dear God,

We pray for all those people who leave the country of their birth seeking a new life. May they experience a warm welcome in their new home. Help us to make any new arrivals into our school to feel welcome and to settle in.

Amen.

Say the Lord's Prayer and prepare the children for the line '*Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven . . .*'

Leaving the hall

- As you work and play today – remember that God loves each and every one of us in equal measure. Whether you are a Christian or not.
- Jesus gave us the gift of this parable to help us know we are loved by God and asks us to see how well we show God's love to other people and particularly in our school at the moment, to all the new arrivals.
- We all need to make sure, children and adults, that the school respects everyone freely and fairly.

"The Lord be with you." "And also with you."

Optional evaluation using the 4 questions with a small group of children.

1. Tell me one thing you liked about the Collective Worship you have just been in?
 - a. This is a personal idea just about your feelings or thoughts.
2. Tell me one thing that would have made it better for you?
 - a. This is a personal idea just about your feelings or thoughts.
3. Tell me what it was about?
 - a. This is about factual recall.
4. Tell me why did the person leading the worship do what they did? (How you phrase this depends on the age of the pupils)
 - a. So what was the point?
 - b. What do you take away?
 - c. What do we learn about how we live our lives?