

Theme: God's Standards

Scripture 1:

The kingdom of heaven is like a man who owned some land. One morning, he went out very early to hire some people to work in his vineyard. The man agreed to pay the workers one silver coin for working that day. Then he sent them into the vineyard to work. About nine o'clock the man went to the marketplace and saw some other people standing there, doing nothing. So he said to them, 'If you go and work in my vineyard, I will pay you what your work is worth.' So they went to work in the vineyard. The man went out again about twelve o'clock and again at three o'clock. Both times he hired people to work in his vineyard. About five o'clock the man went to the marketplace again. He saw others standing there. He asked them, 'Why did you stand here all day doing nothing?' They answered, 'No one gave us a job.' The man said to them, 'Then you can go and work in my vineyard.'

"At the end of the day, the owner of the vineyard said to the boss of all the workers, 'Call the workers and pay them. Start by paying the last people I hired. Then pay all of them, ending with the workers I hired first.'

"The workers who were hired at five o'clock came to get their pay. Each worker received one silver coin. Then the workers who were hired first came to get their pay. They thought they would be paid more than the others. But each one of them also received one silver coin. When they got their silver coin, they complained to the man who owned the land. They said,

'Those people were hired last and worked only one hour. But you paid them the same as you paid us. And we worked hard all day in the hot sun.' But the man who owned the vineyard said to one of those workers, 'Friend, I am being fair to you. You agreed to work for one silver coin. So take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same pay that I gave you. I can do what I want with my own money. Are you jealous because I am good to those people?'

"So those who are last now will someday be first. And those who are first now will someday be last."

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Scripture 2:

So you should look for the Lord before it is too late.

You should call to him while he is near.

Evil people should stop being evil.

They should stop thinking bad thoughts.

They should return to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them.

They should come to our God, because he will freely forgive them.

The Lord says, "Your thoughts are not like my thoughts.

Your ways are not like my ways.

Just as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways.

And my thoughts are higher than your thoughts.

Reflections on Scripture:

Why do we worry about what others are doing rather than focusing on ourselves?

Why do we make judgements about others?

Should we judge others? By our own standards?

How high are our own standards?

What does it mean to "take the log out of your own eye, before removing the splinter from someone else's?"

Can we ever achieve the standards that God sets for us?

How does the Church and school help us strive for God standards?

Why should God be the only one to decide who goes to heaven and who doesn't?

Theme: God's Standards

Saint of the Week: St Matthew



How did he live out the theme of this week?

How did he try to help others strive to reach God's standards?

The World Today:



How can we put God's standards and laws into practice?

Where can we see God's standards in our world today?

Prayer:

Father ... may the gospel continue to free me from "cheap grace" which ignores your law and ignores your Son.

Help us to continue growing in the obedience of faith and love until the day when Jesus, who has perfectly fulfilled the law for me, perfectly fulfills the law in me.

So very Amen I pray, in Jesus' holy and loving name.

Pope Francis: *"He came into the world not only to fulfil the Law," the pope continued, "but also to give us his Grace, so that we can do the will of God, loving him and our brothers."*



Hymn



God's Standards & Rules

Prayer Starter:

God, I don't want to live by the world's standards. I put You first in my life, because I know that Your ways are the best.