



Notices for Sunday 20th September 2020

A Reading and Reflection for This Week

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard Matthew ch20: 1-16

“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.”

I remember the first time I heard our Gospel reading. I had not long become a Christian, and not only did I fail to understand it, I wondered whether I had made a big mistake. Was this Christian life style really based on injustice? In other words, if you worked hard, would your reward be equivalent or even less than those who had worked less hours? I hoped that someone would explain the passage to me, but decided not to worry about what I branded to be an anomalous piece of Scripture, for the time being.

Forty years on, I can still understand my concern, because on the surface, this passage seems to suggest that the landowner, obviously God, can be unfair. More learned brains than mine have helped me understand, so let’s see if, with their wisdom, we can cast some light on these words of Jesus.

Jesus addresses this parable to the disciples, not to the crowds or even to the Pharisees, who used to hang around, trying to trip Jesus up with points of Jewish law. The parable takes up the theme of the last verse of Matthew’s chapter 19 “ But many who are first will be last and many who are last will be first”. As usual we are left with the question “What did Jesus mean?” It helps to know Jewish customs at the time Jesus and his disciples were living.

First, God the landowner, not only wanted to hire labourers himself, rather than leave it to a foreman, and he went back at

least 5 times that day, to the Market Place, the equivalent of our Job Centre, in order to hire and reward as many men as possible.

Here we have a picture of God actively seeking people for His kingdom. The vineyard was a common Jewish analogy for Israel, the working day from early morning until dusk, typical of harvest time, and the paying of the last to arrive on the work site, was normal tradition.

What was not 'normal' was the generosity of the landowner, who paid each labourer a full day's pay, a denarius, no matter how long he had worked. This was the amount that had been agreed with the men hired first, and was a generous wage for a day's labour. The land owner had it mind that each man had a family to feed, and wanted all to be able to do this.

But as we know, those hired first now expected more money. Jesus used the ironic Jewish word 'Friend' in his reply to the one who grumbled. It is the same word that he used to the man who tried to get into the wedding banquet without the correct clothes, and to Judas, as he arrived with the soldiers in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus reminds the grumbler that he and his colleagues had agreed to work all day for a denarius.

So what about us? How do we feel when a person we know has belittled Christianity, or criticised us for being Christian, starts to come to church? Do we cynically think that this is a 'flash in the pan', that 'a leopard cannot change his spots', or do we praise God that this person's sins are forgiven and they have at last opened up to the Holy Spirit?

A chap called Fred Lemon was a notorious criminal, living in Dartmoor Prison, when one night Jesus appeared to him in his cell, telling him what Fred was going to do for the Gospel. Fred

went on to have a career as an Evangelist amongst prison inmates. Fred will certainly be in heaven when we get there.

How about the effort we put into being a Christian? As Peter asked Jesus “We have left everything to follow you. What then will there be for us?” meaning ‘what reward will we have?’ Jesus answered that our reward would be in heaven, but in the meantime, we can be assured of eternal life, if we continue to believe in Him and try to follow the Christian way of life.

However God’s grace depends on God’s generosity, it has nothing to do with a human merit system. We cannot earn eternal life. Everything we do should be in response to God’s grace, and not in an effort to try to deserve God’s favour. People who will be first in the Kingdom of Heaven are those who have understood that they have nothing to boast about, and joyously love and serve God for His goodness. Amen

Liz Dew, Lay Reader

Prayer Life and Topics

For our churches and for our protection:

Dear Lord,

You have placed a helmet of salvation on my head -
that I might have peace of mind.

You have placed a breastplate of righteousness upon my chest -
so that my heart may be protected and safe.

You have placed a shield of faith in my hand -
so that as I journey no evil can stand against me.

You have placed the sword of the spirit in my hand -
that I may release those in need.

You are with me. Thank you. Amen.

Please also pray for all our church families.

Prayer Requests: If anyone has a specific prayer request, please do let one of the clergy team know either by phone or by emailing the dedicated and confidential prayer request email prayer@kl.church. This will be picked up by the team and included in Morning Prayer each day.

Worship

Sunday (at church)

9:00 am Mass at St Joseph's Church, Kirkby Lonsdale

9:30 am Morning Service at St Patrick's Church,
Preston Patrick

9:30 am Morning Service at All Saints Church, Lupton

9.30 am KLMC Service at St Mary's Church,
Kirkby Lonsdale

10:30 am Morning Service at St Bartholomew's
Church, Barbon

11:00 am Morning Service at St Mary's Church,
Kirkby Lonsdale

Further details around the arrangements for worshipping in buildings are available on the kl.church website [here](#) and the leaflet on hygiene measures [here](#). All are welcome at any of the services.

Sunday (online)

9:00 am A recorded service from the clergy team and members of the churches which is accessible from the kl.church website or on our [YouTube Channel](#). Please note the new time. As we are now meeting for worship, we need to provide some flexibility around when people can watch it.

Methodist Central Hall in Westminster Sunday morning service via [YouTube](#).

Church of England [online weekly service](#)

Catholic services can be accessed via a schedule online [here](#).

Sunday (Radio and TV)

BBC1 TV has the following: **1:15pm** Songs of Praise.

BBC Radio has the following: **8.00am** BBC Radio

Cumbria has a service.

8:10am BBC Radio 4 FM
Sunday Worship.

Weekdays

Each Weekday

8.15am The Clergy meet for Morning Prayer every weekday. Everyone welcome.

The Zoom link is [here](#). Meeting ID: 236 218 961 Password: 945130. The words are on kl.church.

Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion in St Mary's Church

Welcome Service for new Superintendent Minister

A welcome service and induction for the new Methodist Circuit Superintendent Minister for the Kendal Circuit, Rev Melanie Greenhall, will be held on Saturday 26th September at 6.30pm. The Service will be live streamed to our YouTube account [kl.church](#)

Melanie has now moved from Lincolnshire District into the Kendal Manse and is settling in well. Please pray for her as she takes up her new role with us here in the Kendal Circuit.

Zoomed Gatherings for Coffee, Cake, and Chat

Sundays 11.30am

You are welcome to join a virtual get together for a chat after the Sunday service from 11:00am. The Zoom link is [here](#). Meeting ID: 819 0248 3575 Password: 868713.

Wednesdays 10.30am

There is also a virtual coffee morning using Zoom each Wednesday. Again, everyone is welcome. The Zoom link is [here](#). Meeting ID: 861 5213 0840 Password: 578998.

Family Project

Messy Picnic

It is with huge regret that we have decided that, whilst we can satisfy the Covid requirements for holding a Messy Picnic, we are concerned about how this could be interpreted by the wider community, as we are all still adjusting to the new rules. Therefore, we are postponing Messy Picnic until Spring or Summer 2021. Lol

Keep up to date with us: on our [Facebook Page](#); on our [Instagram Page](#); on my [blog](#); or on the [website](#).

Lol Wood – Family Project Leader

Community Cupboard

There is a food box in the porch of St Mary's Church for donations of supplies and people are welcome to take food if they have need.

The contact number is the same as the Hub 015242 36404 between 10:00 and 13:00.

The website can be found here <https://klcommunity.co.uk>

Website Links

[kl.church](#) - Church in and around Kirkby Lonsdale Worship website

[Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church Website](#)

[Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church Facebook](#)

[The Rainbow Parish website](#)

[St Joseph's Church website](#)

[Family Project website](#)

[Family Project Facebook page](#)

Other Notices

Sunday Club

A fortnight ago we had a one-off edition of Sunday Club on the Glebe Field, led by Lol. This was much enjoyed by Tom and Finn, Bethan, Arianna and Jess, and by various older but not necessarily more dignified friends and relatives.

It would be good to restart Sunday Club on a more regular basis, perhaps fortnightly initially, and based in the Methodist Church hall and garden. I will contact parents, helpers and well-wishers in the next day or two to discuss this. If you would like to be involved please drop me an email at martincoombs11@gmail.com

Note: All text in red is a clickable link.

If you have any comments, items for inclusion or to be sent by post, please email notices@kl.church, or contact Merlin Hibbs 015242 76410, Marion Dalgoutte 015242 71890, or Michael Dugdale 07831837648.

Items need to be received by Wednesday for the following week's notice sheet.