

Focused on God's Word

Matthew 20:1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

"About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.

"He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. 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?'

"'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

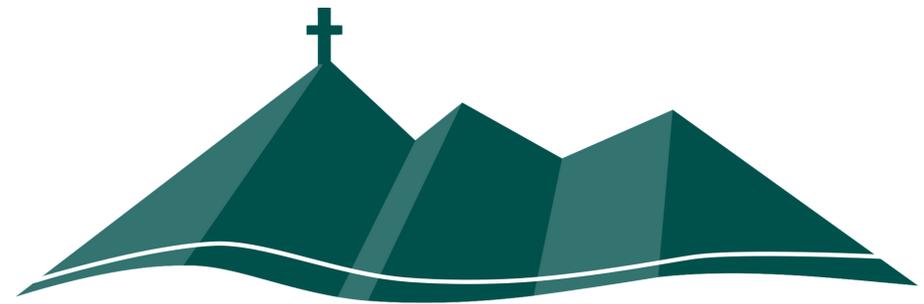
"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

"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.'

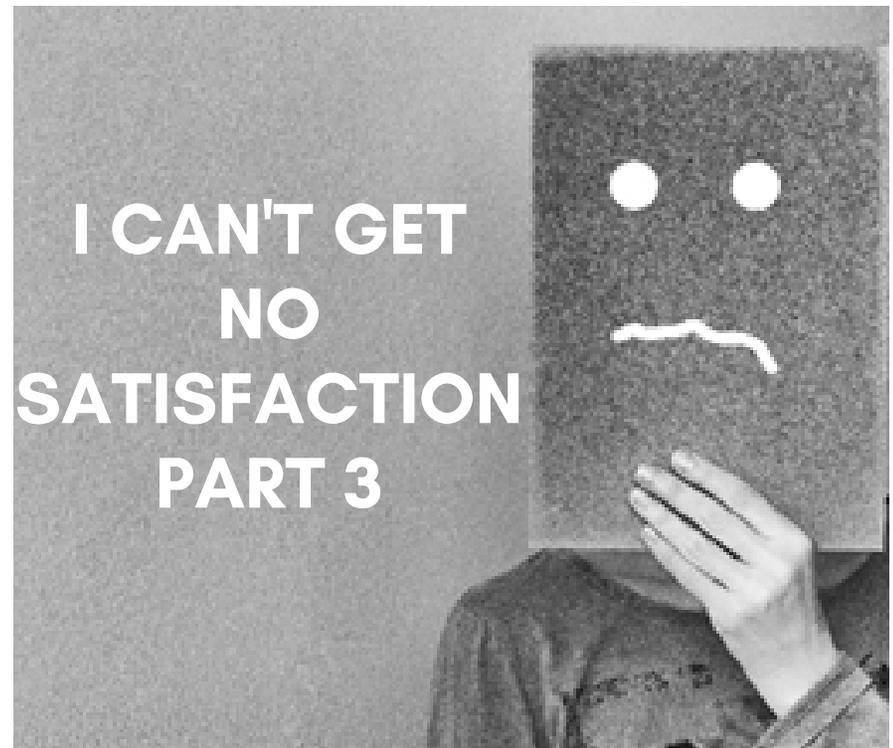
"The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

'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.'

"But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' "So the last will be first, and the first will be last." (NIV)



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MARCH 22, 2020

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Stay in touch with us! - Call in to the church office. Also, be sure to check out the church's Facebook page and our website.

Probe Elementary before classes were discontinued began their healthy snack program. They are so thankful for our initial partnership.

Continue to pray for families in need. Food security is a real issue in our city and some families who send kids to Probe need support to ensure their kids eat well. To help, please speak with Pastor Lee.

Palm Sunday Coat and Blanket Collection We are collecting gently used coats, hoodies, jackets and blankets for those in need. Donations can be deposited in the container provided inside the main entrance during office hours.

Let's Help One Another This is a time to pull together. We are here for you. We are here for one another. If you are in need of prayer and support, please let us know how we can help. We trust the Lord to meet our needs. In a time where we are being asked to distance ourselves, we know this can leave some of us feeling alone and unsupported so I encourage you to find ways to support each other. Let us know how we can help. Go to our website to fill out the online form that helps us know what you are willing to do to serve during this time.

Nominations Please We are still seeking nominations for all Parish Planning Council positions (executive and boards). You can now go to our website to nominate somebody or several somebodies for various positions. Go to www.immanuellutheran.ca. You will see near the top of the main page... PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM

We challenge each person to nominate at least one person for a position.

Public Worship Cancelled Until The End of March Our Parish Planning Council met by teleconference on Monday night to discuss what to do in response to the guidelines set out by governing authorities. We felt that the biggest concern was the health of people in our community so we will choose to cancel public worship and programming until the end of March. We are trusting this is the right decision given the information we have in determining how best to cooperate with the desire to reduce person to person contact in large groups.

In Need of Pastoral Care? Please call the church office to arrange a visit or phone call from either Pastor Lee or Pastor Peter.

YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

In response to God's goodness, we worship the Lord through the giving of service and tithes and offerings. Did you know 30% of our giving comes from automatic withdrawal and 70% comes from our regular offering time during worship? Your weekly gifts help sustain the ongoing ministry of Immanuel at its current levels. If you have gifts to give, consider A) dropping off your tithes and offerings at the church office, or B) consider setting up automatic withdrawal, or C) giving through e-transfer. Questions/concerns? Please call the church office where we will help answer your questions.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those Who Are Shut-in Elisabeth Auer, Tammy Baedke, Doreen Friesen, Astrid & Ola Gerlaug, Tove Ipsen, Frieda Klimow, Kathy Kogler, Helga Lohka, Otto & Maria Marten, Lucille Miller, Rose Ockerman, Kurt & Maria Ott, Gus Paul, Pauline Plato, Emma Poehlmann (Calgary), Kathy Kogler, Erwin Pohl, Shirley Reinbold, Alfred Reuter, Christel Spitzer, Anni Wollschlager, Marion Ziefflie **For health, healing, and strength** for Tara Gray, Adam Webber, Marilynn Wogsberg, Jenna Harrad, Ken Braun, Glen Riehl **For comfort and peace** Gladys Fedoruk on the death of her mother. **For the Holy Spirit's Gifts of peace and patience** as we endure the uncertainty that the COVID-19 response brings as we look for way to care for our neighbors, family, and friends..

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR SUNDAY

- When is the last time you said to yourself, "I am so satisfied with what I have in my life!"?
- Have you ever been so jealous of someone else? What was it that you saw they had... that you wanted so badly for yourself? How did it affect your happiness?
- Have you ever felt God short changed you? What lead you to believe that?
- Matthew 20:1-16 especially verse 15. "Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?" The landowner was generous to all his workers. Some didn't see it quite that way. How do you see it?
- Can you identify 3 ways that God has been generous to you this week? Where have you seen God's generosity show up in the world this week? Take time to thank the Lord now!