

"A NEW BEGINNING; MORE THAN WE EVER EXPECTED!"
SEPTEMBER 20, 2020 – OUTDOOR WORSHIP
THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JONAH 3:10-4:11; PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30; MATTHEW 20:1-16
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

We would love something, for nothing - but that is not expected, and rarely the case. We would like to have more than we do have, more than those who we think do less - and that is human. But how much more do we really want? Do we really want more fairness? As we share today in the parable of the laborers, we are reminded that our blessings in Christ, that our very salvation, are not dependent on when we hear the good news of Jesus Christ, or what we do in the field. Thanks be to God, our new beginning in grace does not take much, as God gives as God chooses, to who God chooses, when God chooses. Our new beginning in God's grace is not based on fairness. In a world that often tempts us to wonder how much more we want, in Christ, we trust the blessings we receive now are more than sufficient, more than expected; and the gifts of the kingdom still to come, will truly be more than we ever dreamed!

1. How much more fairness do we really want, as we receive more than expected, thanks to a new beginning in God's grace? Jonah 4:9-11; Matthew 20:8-15
 - A. We would like life to be fair.
 - B. Jesus' parable does not sound very fair, and that troubles us.
 - C. Jesus' parable does not sound fair, and that is what saves us, giving us far more than expected, thanks to a new beginning in God's grace!

2. How much more clear do you want Jesus to be, as he gives you more than expected, thanks to a new beginning in God's grace? Jonah 4:1-2; Philippians 1:21,27; Matthew 20:1-7,14
 - A. We like it when things are clearly explained to us.

- B. How much more clear can Jesus be about all we are to do, as we hear his invitation and call?
 - C. How much more clear can Jesus be about what we are promised, of all that is more than expected, thanks to this new beginning in grace?
3. How much more grace do you want from Jesus? Jonah 3:10; Matthew 20:8,15
- A. How much more forgiveness do you want, to help you trust this new beginning?
 - B. How much more eternal life do you want, to help you trust we have no way to expect or to fully know all that awaits us, thanks to this new beginning that will last forever?
4. It is only human for us to want a little more from time to time – a little more recognition, a little more control; and yet even we, do not expect something for nothing. Today we give thanks it does not take much of God's love to give us more than something, to give us everything, to give us what we do not deserve, to give us more than we ever expected or dreamed: A brand new beginning in God's daily, saving grace!