



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 20, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

“God's Generosity Beyond Our Expectations”

One of the realities of human life is our desire to succeed. We work hard, make sacrifices, persevere through difficulties, and patiently wait for the fruits of our labor. Whether in our families, workplaces, ministries, or communities, we naturally hope our efforts will be recognized and rewarded. In today's world, where achievements, status, and recognition are highly valued, it is easy to measure success by what we receive in return.

Yet the Word of God challenges this way of thinking. Through the Prophet Isaiah, the Lord reminds us: *“My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways.”* God's way of seeing and judging differs greatly from our human standards.

This truth is beautifully illustrated in the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. Those who labored from early morning received the same wage as those who worked only the last hour of the day. Naturally, the first workers felt disappointed and even resentful. They expected more because they had worked longer and endured the day's heat. But the landowner reminded them that he had not treated them unjustly. He had given them what they had agreed upon. What troubled them was not injustice but the master's generosity toward others.

This parable speaks powerfully to our present situation. We live in a society where comparison has become almost unavoidable. Through social media and constant exposure to others' lives, we can easily fall into the trap of comparing our blessings, achievements, and even our faith journeys with those around us. We sometimes wonder why others seem to receive opportunities, success, healing, or blessings we have long prayed for. Like the workers in the vineyard, we may begin to question God's fairness.

Jesus invites us today to move beyond a mentality of comparison and entitlement. God's love is not earned like a paycheck. His mercy cannot be measured by human standards. The Lord desires that all people, even those who come late, those who have strayed, those who have failed, and those who are only now turning to Him, may experience His saving grace. In God's Kingdom, no one is excluded from His compassion.

At times, we may be tempted to think that because we have been faithful for many years, active in ministry, or diligent in fulfilling our religious duties, God somehow owes us special treatment. When our expectations are not met, disappointment can turn to frustration, and frustration to complaint. Yet faith teaches us that everything we have is first and foremost a gift from God.

Instead of asking, “Why did they receive the same?” perhaps we should ask, “How generous is God in welcoming everyone?” Rather than focusing on what others have received, we are called to be grateful for the countless blessings the Lord has already given us. Gratitude opens our hearts to joy, while comparison often steals our peace.

As we continue our journey of faith amid the challenges of our world, let us trust more deeply in God's wisdom and goodness. Let us rejoice whenever others receive God's blessings and mercy. And let us enter the Lord's vineyard each day not as those demanding rewards, but as grateful disciples eager to serve.

May God's grace continue to transform our hearts, freeing us from envy, comparison, and entitlement. When the day comes for us to stand before Him, may He find us faithful, humble, and generous, ready to receive the greatest reward, a place in His Kingdom.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual