

SEPTEMBER 21, 2014



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ISAIAH 55:6-9

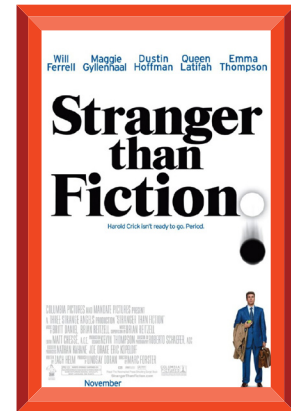
PSALM 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

PHILIPPIANS 1:20C-24, 27A

MATTHEW 20:1-16A

REFLECTION

“That’s not fair!” When I was a kid if I ever said that my dad would always say, “Life isn’t fair.” It always made me mad. Now that I think about it that’s probably why he did it, to annoy us kids! The parable of the workers in the vineyard can seem really unfair too. The first set of workers are there all day. The last set work only a few hours and yet they all receive a full day’s wage. No fair! Right? Well, the First Reading warns us ahead of time that God’s ways will puzzle and confuse us. To make sense of it, we have to remember that God is “generous in forgiving” (Isaiah 55:7). So if God wants to give everyone who comes to him *all* of his love or mercy or forgiveness—even if they have sinned or stayed away—instead of being jealous or angry we should probably celebrate that.



In the movie *Stranger Than Fiction* (2006) an IRS agent is baffled by the generosity of a bakery owner he is auditing.

ACTION

Find a situation in which you can practice extreme generosity. Maybe instead of just helping a younger sibling with one question of homework you sit and work through all of it with him or her. Maybe you could do the chore around the house that everybody hates without even being asked. Or maybe you could help a teacher, or coach, or boss pack up at the end of the day and get out early. Even though God’s ways are high above our ways we can learn from them. Being generous to the extreme is one of God’s signature qualities. You might want to make it one of yours, too.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Have you ever been on the receiving end of extreme generosity?
- Think of some other occasions when God’s ways are puzzling or confusing, or give some examples of times that God is generous in forgiving.