## A weekly reflection by members of the Precious Blood Community

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*Are you envious because I am so generous? (Matthew 20:15)*

I remember as if it were yesterday, one of my first days as a young teacher, an occurrence in the classroom that pushed me into deciding to punish the whole class for an action that was probably committed by one student.  I didn't like doing it.  I recall coming home that evening and complaining that " It just isn't fair."  My principal looked at me --- straight in the eyes and  said: "Nobody ever said that life was fair."

 God's judgment of us is based on justice, not fairness.  He always treats us justly, and sometimes it happens to be fair.  No matter what happens, He's always just.  In today's Gospel, St. Matthew tells us that the man in the parable chose to give people who came at the eleventh hour the same salary that those who were working from the first shift.   To us, this doesn't seem fair.  In reality, the owner of the vineyard has done nothing wrong.  He merely chooses to be generous in giving out the same wages to all.

 A parallel story would be the mother of the sons of Zebedee (James and John). She asks Jesus for a spot in His kingdom for her two sons.  If Jesus chooses to do so,  James and John may end up in the bleachers of heaven, even though they were with Jesus from the beginning.  It would still be a just decision on the part of Jesus.  To our form of human thinking, this may be a problem and an unfair decision.  We are making this judgment according to our standards and not God's standards.  God's sense of justice differs from ours.  It may not seem fair in our eyes,  but in the eyes of God, it is just.  Let us begin to  think as God thinks and " do not be envious because He is generous."

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