

Wednesday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (Mt 20:1-16): Jesus told his disciples this parable: “The Kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.’ ...

When it was evening... when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day’s burden and the heat...

"Spiritual unemployment" (Parable of the unemployed vine growers)

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, when we ask ourselves, Christianity, “what for”? we are doing exactly what those vine growers did. When they realized they could obtain the salary of a denarius much more easily (by working less hours), they could not understand why they had been working all day long. But on what were they basing their conviction that it was much more comfortable being idle than working?

This parable was not transmitted for workers of another time, but for us, who take for granted that "spiritual unemployment" —a life without faith and prayer— is more pleasant than spiritual service. But, what are we basing it on? We look at the effort involved in the daily Christian life, while forgetting that faith is not only a burden that oppresses us, but at the same time, a guiding light...

—O Jesus, make me forget "my burden" and let me think of the burden others have, so I can help them.