

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – A

- Let me set the stage for today's first reading.
 - The people of Israel were prisoners in Babylon.
 - They were conquered and carried off – entire families, as prisoners.
 - An entire generation dies, and the children grow up – and they're released.
 - Isaiah is raised up by God to help them recover after the Babylonian exile.
 - He encourages them:
“Seek the Lord while He may be found, call on Him while He is still near”
Is there ever a time when He may NOT be found?
Have you ever had that feeling that you are so very alone, so lost, hopeless?
 - What do we do?
 - Do we work harder, or pray more, or fast, or what
- There is a little gem in today's Gospel that's easy to overlook.
 - The landowner is **constantly** looking for those to work in his vineyard.
 - The day has started, workers are hired, they agree to a wage
 - YET *He keeps looking for more*
“Seek the Lord while He may be found, call on Him while He is still near”
 - Absolutely true – but know this - *HE is seeking us too.*
 - Abraham Heschel is a rabbi who wrote a famous book “Man's Quest For God”
 - The truth of his book is that it's really God's Quest for Man
 - God continually seeks us out, calls us to Himself
 - Just like the landowner – all day long – till the very last moment.
 - And ALL who come, no matter when, are paid in full
- Now on the face of it – it doesn't seem fair
 - IF we conclude that what is paid the workers is someTHING
 - The parable has a whole new meaning if payment becomes someONE

It all begins with being found – being called – being needed – like workers in the vineyard
It uncovers what we all really want

To be wanted, to belong to someone

Are WE still standing around?

Have WE been called

Do WE belong to someone

We are going to leave here today and go on doing the things we do everyday

Sometimes that great and exciting

Sometimes is doing stuff we are just sick to death of doing

What matters is the someONE in whom we live.

Are you still standing around waiting to be found

Its time to really live

Jn 10:10 “I have come that you might have life, and have it abundantly”

Choose life – to the hilt

He has agreed to pay in full