

## Pentecost 16A

September 24, 2017

### Other Readings

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Psalm 145:1-8

### Readings for study

#### Philippians 1:21-30

*Before: Paul being in jail is a good thing*

- *For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.*
- Live in the flesh
  - o Not a metaphor – here literally living or dying
- Fruitful labor
  - o There is still a lot of work to be done in spreading the Gospel and Paul still feels needed
- Which to prefer
  - o Some people reach that stage in life where dying feels justified
- Being with Christ is far better
  - o This is an interesting point for our theology – being that we are not undergoing persecution for our faith.
- Remain in the flesh is necessary for you
- Boasting in Jesus Christ
- *Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ*
- Standing firm, striving side by side with one mind
- No way intimidated by your opponents
- The privilege of suffering for Christ

*After: The appeal to have the same mind as Christ*

#### Matthew 20:1-16

*Before: Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first (ahem....Peter)*

- Landowner
  - o Who is interactive and not a distant
- Early in the morning
  - o 6am (other times for finding workers at 9, noon)
- Hire laborers
  - o Much of class was spent on the plight of day workers
    - The stress of not knowing if you would find work for the day
    - Hiring people off of street corners vs. organized day-labor offices
    - The benefit of expanding a labor force easily vs unsustainable living wage for those in need of work
- Daily wage
  - o Denarius, frequently used as a common base reference for finances
- I will pay whatever is right
  - o An interesting foreshadowing to how the story concludes
- Borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat
  - o Suffering while working
  - o Since this is a story about those who came to the faith – this is a question about those who endured suffering for being a Christian
- Friend

- A sarcastic greeting
- Am I not allowed to do what I choose?
  - If I am foolish about how I use money, isn't that mine
- Are you envious because I am generous?
  - Sometimes envy is a reflection of disagreeing value systems, sometimes it's just jealousy

*After: Prediction of death and resurrection*