

Marist Minute

Even though Theodore Roosevelt warned us that “comparison is the thief of joy”, I’m certainly guilty of spying over the fence to check how green my neighbour’s lawn is. Whether it’s gardening, fitness, parenting or wealth, we can so quickly judge the worthiness of ourselves based on the actions of others.

The parable of the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16) is about several workers who are hired to work in a vineyard over different periods of time. At the end of the day, the people who were hired first expected to be paid more than those hired later. However, the owner pays each of the workers equally. The parable helps to explain God’s love and inclusion for those who’ve known Him their whole lives to those who encounter His love on their death bed. There is great joy and freedom in believing in a God who knows each of us personally and waits patiently for us to arrive at the gates of the vineyard.

St Marcellin Champagnat instructed his educators to love each of their students equally and like the owner of the vineyard, he understood that equality didn’t mean the same. This was a revolutionary act of tenderness because Marcellin understood each child needed to be known and loved within unique and personal relationships.



Journal Questions:

Have you let comparison steal your joy?

How does this understanding of equality influence your approach to loving others?

What is it like to be loved unconditionally by God?

