

Article Review

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Date:02.04.2023

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What is one concept that stands out in this article?

The author compares the benevolence of the vineyard owner with the Christians of our modern society. Unlike us who toss a coin or give a piece of bread, the landowner dispenses dignity. The phrase “Because no one has hired us”, it is often quoted by people with disabilities. The landowner gave the same wages to those who came later and those who came first. The early workers worked all day under the hot sun. But they worked with confidence that they could feed their families. Those who came late waited all day without being able to work. They were in the midst of anxiety, not knowing whether they would be able to support their families. Jesus compared these two people.

Heaven is not a place where people are divided according to human standards and what is useful. It is a place where everyone is equal in the name of being a child of God. Even those we don't want to associate with are there as invited by God. Then, as children of God, what we must do on this earth is clear. It's about reaching out to the people our fathers hired last, who the world turns away from and doesn't get along with. Because that is what father is pleased with. They are heirs of God's kingdom like us, and should provide a model for restoring them to their proper place.

What does this concept mean for guiding the Church?

In the Korean church I belong to, the disabled people part is extremely minimal. From a social point of view, the United States is a more opened for disabilities than Korea. When you go to Korea, you don't see people with disabilities on the road. They're all hiding somewhere. Most of all, the right to move for the disabled is not secured. It is very difficult for people with disabilities to even go somewhere using public transportation, as tools for using buses or subways for people with disabilities are not active. In that matter, America is a much better

environment than Korea. Here are low-floor buses for wheelchairs in the United States, and elevators for wheelchairs are installed at every subway station. Nonetheless, people with disabilities have a 75.8% higher unemployment rate than people without disabilities. They wait all day, the next day, and the day after that, like laborers in the vineyard. This is not the story of Jesus thousands of years ago, but the story of our neighbors living in the present.

However, ministry for the disabled costs money and there are not many tangible results. Few people are cured of a disability like those who stood beside Jesus. Therefore, countermeasures for the disabled are like a bottomless pit in Korea like a society that values results.

For this reason, mega churches have departments for people with disabilities, but most small churches do not even think of ministering to people with disabilities. I belong to is like that too. However, this is not a matter of choice to do or not to do, but it is what God said this is what I want.

What changes do you need to make in your life as a result?

I met a mother who has kid with disability could not come to our church because there was no department for the disabled. I was heartbroken and could not provide any practical help. And I realized that I should have worked at that time. I should have prepared at least one person to run the department. As we read, learn, and try to live the Word, but it means nothing if we don't move where God's heart is.

As a leader of church, we have to act. Even if there is no visible result right away, if God is pleased, we must do it.

References:

“Because no one has hired us” The story of employment issues of people with disabilities, Jones, Cyndi, *Currents in Theology and Mission*, 49 no 3 2022, p 25-28, January 1, 2022