
REFLECTION

"Grace, Liberation, and Joy in Christ"



- *Liturgical Calendar Readings for Sunday, September 24, 2023:*
- *Exodus 16:2-15,*
- *Psalms 105:1-6, 35-45,*
- *Philippians 1:21-30,*
- *Matthew 20:1-16*



Joel Rodríguez
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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, in our gathering, we want to explore the richness of Scripture from two theological perspectives: Liberation Theology and Wesleyan Theology.

Through the passages we have read, Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 35-45, Philippians 1:21-30, and Matthew 20:1-16, we will see how these theological approaches converge to illuminate our lives as followers of Jesus.

1. Manna in the Desert and God's Grace:

In Exodus 16, we see God's concern for the needy as He provides manna in the desert.

From the Wesleyan perspective, this reminds us of God's grace that supplies our basic needs. Grace is not limited to the forgiveness of our sins but extends to all areas of our lives. As a Christian community, we must be aware of the grace God grants us and, in turn, extend it to others.

LIFE AND FAITH

2. The Liberation from Egypt and Social Justice:

Psalm 105 celebrates God's faithfulness in liberating Israel from slavery in Egypt. From the perspective of Liberation Theology, we see a powerful reminder of the liberation of the oppressed as a divine act. It calls us to focus on social justice and to work to liberate those who still suffer oppression in the world. God's grace calls us to be agents of change in the fight for justice.



3. Joy and Unity in Christ:

In Philippians 1, we find a call to joy and unity in Christ, even amidst difficulties. Wesleyan Theology emphasizes the joy that comes from a relationship with Christ.

Despite the challenges we face, as a community of faith, we must maintain our joy in Christ and persevere in our faith.

Philippians 1



Despite the challenges we face, as a community of faith, we must maintain our joy in Christ and persevere in our faith. This compels us to be a beacon of hope for others.

4. The Parable of the Vineyard Workers:

In Matthew 20, Jesus presents the parable of the vineyard workers,

which can be understood from Liberation Theology as a call for equity and justice in labor relations. From the Wesleyan perspective, it highlights God's grace that extends to all, regardless of how long we have served in the Kingdom. This reminds us that God's grace is not based on our merits but on His generosity.

LIBERATION

In conclusion, both Liberation Theology and Wesleyan Theology encourage us to live our lives as disciples of Christ with a deep awareness of God's grace, a commitment to social justice, and a joy that comes from our relationship with Christ. As a faith community, we are called to be agents of liberation, grace, and joy in a world that longs for these divine blessings. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit guides us in this mission.

Amen.



*God's grace that extends to all,
regardless of how long we have served
in the Kingdom.*

Wesleyen thought



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