

When I had small children, and my wife Lucy and I shared one job, she looked after the children in the morning, and I had them in the afternoon. She would come back at about 6pm and ask, "How did it go?" Often I replied, "Well, we all ate and no one died."

I really enjoyed my years as part time priest and part time parent, but I acknowledge that parenting small children was one of the hardest things I have ever done. But what was, for me, the mark of success? It was that we all got through each day, we went to bed at peace with each other. That wasn't going to win any medals, but it was, very importantly, enough.

Today we have three families bringing their children for baptism. In baptism you bring what is most precious to a parent, the life of your child, and you place that life in God's hands. It is like saying to God,

"Thank you for this child, this gift, this wonder of a human being given in to my care."
But you want to add, "I need your help. I need you to hold him, to hold her. I might not get everything right. I might not be able to keep this child safe and happy and well. Can I please, ask you to help her too, to carry him in life? Can I ask you to bless this child you have given me?"

The poor men of the village in Jesus's story are like our children in the world. A "daily wage" was survival pay. It was just enough to get themselves and their families through the day. Not one of them had secure labour. Not one knew he'd get home with enough at day's end. Some got it right, turned up in the right place at the right moment and got a day's work. Others were trying somewhere else, but still got some work. And others were repeatedly in the wrong place looking for work and moving on to the next until near sunset. They all end up unequal.

When Jesus tells this story, like all his stories, it is about God and us. So what does the owner of the farm do for each and every one of the labourers? He gives each one of them what they need. They each get enough to get through the day and into tomorrow. They get it because the owner of the vineyard knows that they need it, and they tried.

Our God is a God of "enough".
When you pray you may not get what you ask for. But you will be given enough to get through. When you are looking to God for vast wealth and showers of blessings, with the God we see in Jesus, you might be asking the wrong person. God knows that too much makes you insulated, careless and hard.

In baptism there is just enough water to get you wet enough to remember.
In Holy Communion there is just enough bread to feel on your tongue, just enough wine to taste.
In healing there is just enough holy oil to mark your forehead.

In a life well lived, in God's good keeping, it is enough to say, "Today we all ate, no one died, and we are at peace with each other in love."

May the God of Enough be always with you.