

Getting Ready for Sunday!

Sunday, 23 July 2023



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus speaks in parables in the Gospel passage for this Sunday. He explains that evil and good live alongside one another.

We must be patient and faithful as we travel the journey towards God's kingdom knowing that the constant struggle between good and evil will be pulling us.

Our task is that of remaining faithful to God and to trust that God is constantly guiding and loving us.

Matthew 13:24-30

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat



Jesus put another parable before the crowds:

‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off.



When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well.



Weeds will grow in all places,
despite how much weeding
we do!

Our lives are filled with both
love and selfishness! We have
to learn to live with both
together!

The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?"



Weeds are sown when we are not watching:

- By birds
- By the wind
- On the feet of animals
- By those who are jealous of us...

Weeds grow in our hearts when we are selfish, fail to give time to others, fail to love, fail to do our best, fail to be thankful, fail to believe in ourselves, fail to accept that our lives have a great purpose.....



“Some enemy has done this” he answered. And the servants said,
“Do you want us to go and weed it out?”



But he said, “No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest;



There will always be some weeds in our hearts!

No one's perfect!

Accept your failings and challenges and do the best that you can to be the best person you can be.

and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.””



Our hearts can only become truly free when we reach God's kingdom!

In the meantime: do your best!

Facing the challenges of life increases our strength and our faith in God.

He put another parable before them: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.’



He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'



In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.



Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, ‘Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.’

He said in reply, ‘The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man.



The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels.



Well then, just as the dandelion is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time.



The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.



Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

Listen, anyone who has ears!’



Bible Search

Read Matthew 13:24-30 in your family Bible

This is the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday



Consider



What in your life takes the place of love, kindness, peace, joy.....?
What weeds grow in your life, taking up space of love and God?

Praying to Jesus



Pray for the grace to nourish all
that is good in your life.

Ask God to help you to
acknowledge your
failings and to move on
from them.



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