

A Short Teaching on Wheat and Weed
by Deacon Gerry Palermo

Greetings on this the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: WIS 12:13, 16-19; PS 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16; ROM 8:26-27; MT 13:24-43

Today's Gospel Matthew 13:24-43 is a call to ministry and a call to repentance.

Sometimes when reading these seed parables we can make the mistake to assign equivalence to the presence of good and evil which is represented as good seed and bad seed. We fall into thinking that good and evil being equal and opposite. They are not.

Only God has the power to create. The children of God and the children of evil are not children of different Fathers. No, all persons are children of God and yet some have fallen under the influence of evil so much so as to be called sons of evil, and are called poisonous weeds. These are the lost people God sent Jesus to return to him.

When asked if the weeds should be pulled out, the Master says no, let them grow together until the harvest as it might harm the wheat. God clearly warns that ALL children are harmed by rash judgment. Kindness is a higher priority than justice. We children need each other. We are a family in crisis and we should help when and where we can to make for conversion. Conversion of perspective, reminding you are a child of God, evil is no Father and evil has no claim on you.

Look at a summary reading from the Book of Wisdom - '[Lord] your mastery ... makes you lenient to all... and you taught your people that those who are just must be kind ... And you gave your sons good ground for hope that you would permit repentance for their sins.'

The parable of wheat and weeds and the subsequent explanation bracket two other parables.

(1) The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed - becomes the largest of plants and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'

(2) And, the kingdom of heaven is like yeast mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened.

These are the ministries of the children of God. In the first, we are to be a refuge for those escaping evil and in the second the strength for those escaping evil.

The Lord said I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation (of the world) which starts with knowing kindness is the activity of God and any that love Him.

Peace be with you.

Deacon Gerry