

JULY 19, 2020  
Sunday of the 16<sup>th</sup> Week in OT  
Matthew 13: 1-23

“LORD, BE PATIENT WITH ME.”

Some people frequently ask the question ‘Why does God permit evil to triumph so in this world? Why are the wicked, the evil one, allowed to grow? Why God tolerates evil things happened to good people? We heard these questions maybe more often especially when we are in trouble, suffering or in difficult situations. We ask this before and we still asking it now as we experience lost of love ones, sickness, and to this new normal because of the pandemic. Our gospel for today who comes from the Gospel of Matthew 13:24-43 is Jesus Christ's answer to this question. Even if sometimes it’s hard to understand, Jesus is telling us that the work of the wicked is only a short one and the prize of those Christians who endures from their wickedness is for ever, endless, and infinite. God uses the ways of the evildoers to perfect His disciples, His followers.

According to Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.: “In the parable, the weed does not destroy the wheat. It only makes it more difficult for the wheat to grow to maturity. So, it is with the Christian. No one can take his faith from Him but living up to it is made more difficult by the evil influence and bad example of sinners. If some succumb to this evil influence and give up the practice of their faith, the fault is theirs. God can force no man to serve Him. The patience of the farmer in letting the weed grow on until harvest time, exemplifies the infinite mercy of God toward sinners. The weed could not change its nature, but the sinner can change his ways and God gives him every chance and every help to do this, up to his last moment of life. No sinner will be excluded from heaven because of the sins he committed but because he did not repent of these sins while he had the opportunity. We must learn a double lesson of patience from this parable. First, to be patient with those who make our spiritual progress more difficult for us—they are actually helping us to be better Christians if we bear with patience the injuries they inflict on us. Second, we must try to imitate the patience God shows in His dealings with sinners.

While we must not approve of their evil deeds, or their sins, we must still look on them as our brothers and sisters and do all in our power to put them back on the right road to heaven. We can do this by good example, and by fervent prayer for their conversion. This is not easy for human nature, but we can be certain that God will give us the necessary grace and strength to subdue our natural weakness and aversion, if we try to act with charity and true brotherly interest toward our erring fellowmen, our brothers and sisters. By acting thus, we will not only be helping a weak brother or sisters on the rugged road to heaven, we will also be making doubly sure of our own arrival there, for God will never be outdone in generosity.”<sup>1</sup>

My brothers and sisters, sometimes we do bad things in life and God will always wait us to come back. There’s always a chance for repentance, for forgiveness because God will always be love. Even if other people don’t accept us, weak, sinner, and sees in us that we are not capable of love, outcasted and abandoned, the Lord will always patient with us, love us until such time that we are ready to love Him. Look at Peter and Judas. After Peter’s triple denial, he should be weeded out because of his unfaithfulness and he failed in the leadership test. Or Judas Iscariot who was a traitor and betrayed Him. Strangely, they never weeded out because for Jesus there will always be a second chance, a third chance and a lot more chances. God is and will always be patient with us. The Lord is waiting for us to come back, just say so, He will embrace you with compassion and mercy, and our sins will be gone because of love.

Let this be our prayer: “Lord Jesus Christ, be patient with me a sinner. Help me to let Your Word take root in my heart and may Your all-consuming understanding, compassion, mercy and love transform my life that I may sow what is beautiful, precious, good, worthy, and pleasing to you. Amen.”

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<sup>1</sup> [www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)