

JULY 24, 2021
Saturday of the 16th Week in OT
Matthew 13: 24-30

“WHEAT AND WEEDS IN US”

Our faith, trust, and faithfulness with God must be safeguarded because the devil will strike us anytime. There will be time that we will be off guard, unsecured, surprised and unprepared.

We heard in our First Reading the covenant of Moses and the Israelites with God that they will follow all ordinances that God gave them. They all enthusiastically answered with one voice: “All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.”¹ But along their journey, they encountered challenges, trials and faced the ‘weeds’ that stop them from following God and be faithful to Him. They confronted dangers, idolatry, injustice, complain, and loss of faith and trust in the Lord. The Israelites turned back to God and forgot their covenant and promises with Him. While in our gospel, we heard that the enemy sows weeds in the field of wheat for the purpose of destroying the crops, prevent the owner to have abundant harvest. The enemy came at the time that the people were asleep, an image of surprise, people are unaware, and the time farmers were not prepared. This was really the work of the evil one, he will strike at the time that we are caught surprise, not alert and ready,

My sisters and brothers, “just as nature teaches us patience, so God's patience also teaches us to guard the word which He has planted in our hearts and to beware of the destructive force of sin and deception which can destroy it. God's word brings life, but Satan, the father of lies, seeks to destroy the good seed which God plants in the hearts of those who listen to his word.”² We must take care of the seed He planted by being always alert, by nurturing it with deep relationship with Him and constantly renewing our

¹ Exodus 24: 3 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society

² www.dailyscripture.net

commitment, covenant and promises to the Lord of the harvest. Also, the gospel warns us we should be patient and compassionate to those weeds or so called bad people among us, members of our parish, family or society on the basis of unjustified or quick judgment. Just as the master was patient and tolerant to let the weeds and the wheat grow together and at the harvest time separate them, God is patiently waiting for us sinners to be converted. God always gives us time to change our heart, come back to Him and ask for forgiveness. He always gives us a chance to be good people.

My sisters and brothers, what lessons we can get from this parable? "1) Each one of us is a combination of wheat and weeds; as the saying goes, "There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it ill behooves any of us to find fault with the rest of us. [James Truslow Adams, www.brainyquotes.com] Since it is impossible for us to judge people as evil or good, we must learn to be kind to them relying on the power of God to convert them. 2) Many people who do evil are converted at a certain time in their lives because of the grace of God. Our God awaits repentant sinners, giving them the strength to acknowledge their weakness and come to for Mercy. 3) Since the good example and the fervent, ongoing prayers and penances of practicing Christians can influence and occasion the conversion of people who do evil, it is the duty and the joy of all Christians to live exemplary lives and to treat them with love, compassion, and the spirit of forgiveness. Hence, let us grow up as healthy wheat in God's field, leaving the weeds for Jesus to take care of. 4) There will be a separation of weeds and wheat, good and bad fish (13:47-50), sheep and goats (Matthew 25:31-46). But this separation will take place at the end of the world, on God's timetable not ours. Hence, let us leave the judgment to God."³ Our challenge for today, let us renew always our covenant to our Lord, always be on guard and treat those 'weeds' within us and with others with love and patience.

³ <http://frtonyshomilies.com/>