

Gospel Lesson for the Week

July 20, 2008

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost...

Please read

[Matthew 13:24-30](#)

[Matthew 13:36-43](#)

Read also

[Genesis 28:10-19a](#)

[Psalms 139:1-12](#)

[Psalms 139:23-24](#)

[Romans 8:12-25](#)

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

"And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."

He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.

“Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

HUMILITY

When I,
caught in self-righteousness,
am prone to pass judgment,
barring the door to those
different from me,
or who cannot measure up
to my standard or taste
or morality;

When I
selectively choose
the scripture words,
to support my point of view,
using a Bible verse
here and there
as pretext for exclusion;

When I
pursue my
my-way-or-the-highway
approach to faith and life,
Lord, lead me back
to the master story teller
and his parable
about a farmer
who planted a field,
only to discover
that weeds were growing
mixed with the wheat.
Remind me of his words:
“Let both of them grow together
until the harvest”

Help me to see, Lord,
that there is time enough
to make a separation
when the crop is ready for harvest.
Meanwhile,
help me to walk with them,
all of them,
and with him
who had a good word
for Samaritans and lepers
and even tax collectors,
enjoying as we go
the sunshine
of his righteousness.

“Let anyone with ears listen!”

---rvc