

July 23rd 2023 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A – Matthew 13:24-43

²⁴He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And 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?” ²⁸He answered, “An enemy has done this.” The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” ²⁹But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let 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.”’

³¹He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.’

³³He told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.’

³⁴Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. ³⁵This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet: ‘I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.’ ³⁶Then 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.’ ³⁷He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel. ➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition ➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do
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In this week’s gospel we read about the owner of the field who allowed the wheat and the darnel to grow together. This is a reminder to us to be patient with ourselves and with others when we see all is not right. In all our lives there is the wheat and the darnel. No one has the right to judge any of us except God.

We also have the parable of the mustard seed and the leaven bread which are reminders to us that with Gods help insignificant things can have positive results.

Have you ever been surprised by the benefit to yourself or others of a small kind word of encouragement or a kind gesture?

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for the Church today which was once a mustard seed until people of faith took the seed and sowed it with love. It is now a big tree with shelter in its branches for all people.

Forgive us Lord for writing off people as if there is nothing good in them. We forget that they are all good seed that you sowed in the world. The evil in them is weeds which will be tied up and burnt by you.

Help us Lord to commit ourselves to making the world more human. Let us sow even the smallest seeds in the belief that eventually there will be an abundance of love and concern for all.

