

Gospel Reflection

Jesus speaks in several parables today about the reign of God, including images from several groups of people in order to make his message clear to all who hear. The kingdom of God is like a man who sows good seed. The kingdom of God is like a person who plants a mustard seed. The kingdom of God is like a woman who adds yeast to her flour. All of these very human activities bring home the fact that the reign of God is already among us, working in small ways to bring about mysterious but very great results.

Good and evil are allowed to grow together until the end, lest the good be destroyed with the evil. There is a lesson for us here. It is not that we shouldn't oppose evil when we see it, but that in our zeal to make our world perfect by human force, we must be careful not to destroy the work that God is doing. It is not for us, but for God to judge what is to be kept and what destroyed, and even though we think we know the difference, we must be cautious not to disturb God's carefully planted goodness in others. Violence can never be the means of justice.

Likewise, the reign of God is like something very small, almost unnoticeable until we begin to see the results. The tiny mustard seed, which can be planted by any person (even a child), grows to be a large tree, amazing to all. A tiny amount of yeast, when added to flour, becomes invisible until it begins to make the whole dough rise, doubling or tripling its volume, and becoming bread in the oven's heat.

Let us not judge what we see, but trust that God's work in the world is gentle and quiet, the results known only in the final chapter. We seek, in humility, to watch for the Spirit working in the ordinary activities of our lives.

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

Matthew 13:24-43

K A E B F N N S L H E S S
W I W R K L E X A U E E S
W B N A I H O R R E W V D
H A A G C F V U D J C I E
E P P N D E P A R A B L E
A X A E S O R Z B T U O W
T R Q T L L M E S T R N L
B N E V A E H A W A J E A
B I R D S B E O Z O Y K L
W U N H V Y O N Q U S T W
A U R W E D O Q P X N D G
R E M S K H S U B Y K G S

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

BIRDS	BRANCHES	BUSH
EVILONE	FIRE	FLOUR
HARVEST	HEAVEN	KINGDOM
PARABLE	SEED	SOWER
WEEDS	WHEAT	YEAST

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7/20/2008*

*Matthew 13:24-43
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.

Claremont, CA

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Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *Matthew 13:24-43*

The Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus proposed another parable to the crowds, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well.

"The slaves of the householder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.'

"His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn"'

He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds yet when full grown is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'"

He spoke to them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat

flour until the whole batch was leavened."

All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables. He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation of the world."

Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age and the harvesters are angels.

Just as 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, they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

The Gospel of the Lord

**The reign of God is like
a farmer who sowed good seed.**



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Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- Why do you think the Master permits the wheat and weeds to grow together?
- When have I witnessed God's kingdom unfolding like a mustard seed?
- What image do the words "the Kingdom of heaven" bring to my mind? Why?

Closing Prayer

Father,

Let the gift of your life continue to grow in us, drawing us from death to faith, hope, and love. Keep us alive in Christ Jesus. Keep us watchful in prayer and true to his teaching until your glory is revealed in us.

Grant this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

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