

Sunday Summary

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The parable of the weeds (13:24-30) and its interpretation (13:36-43) are found only in Matthew. The parable itself compares the kingdom of heaven to the harvest of a field of wheat mixed with weeds.

The central injunction of the parable is “let both of them grow together until the harvest.” For Jesus, this may have been a justification of his open invitation. Unlike the Pharisees, he did not attempt to create a pure community but included even Judas.

The two parables of the mustard seed and of the leaven are primarily parables of contrast between the smallness and imperceptible nature of the beginning and the greatness of the result. Both employ hyperbole. The mustard bush grows generally to a height of 8–10 feet, but the picture of the “tree” reflects the image of the world-tree. Likewise the “three measures of flour” is about 50 pounds, enough to feed well over a hundred people.

Weekly Reflection



Thomas Merton wrote of “the conflict between the rigid, authoritarian, self-righteous ascetic... who delivers himself from the world by sheer effort, and then feels qualified to call down curses upon it; and the kind, compassionate man of prayer who identifies himself with the sinful and suffering world in order to call down God’s blessing upon it.”

Can we be surprised that we are called to choose the latter way, as Jesus did before us? He who dined with sinners, kept company with tax collectors, and accepted the embraces of prostitutes, can he ever mean for us to hold aloof from the “sinful and suffering world” that longs for God’s compassionate touch?

No. We who are called to be righteous are likewise called to be kind. When we look around us, we see sins so deep they seem as if they could choke the very kingdom of God: terrorism, corporate injustice, domestic violence. But if we look at the root of each sin, we see also the sinner. And if we look within each sinner, we see also the suffering child of God, longing to grow in God’s kingdom. We see our sister, our brother—our very self.



Food for Thought

❖ In view of today’s understanding of environmental issues, what might creation’s “futility” and “bondage to decay” mean?



Food for Thought

❖ According to Paul in Romans 8:12-28, what role does hope play in our Christian lives? Why is hope sometimes painful?

Bridges for Tridgers

Recipe for Awareness

Begin with a moment of centering silence and quiet reflection, setting aside the concerns and agenda of the day.



1 We come to an awareness of God's presence in our family.

"Dear God, who is present with our family now, and at all times and in all ways..."

Continue with:

2 We express our gratitude for today's gifts from God.

"Today I give thanks for..." or,
"Today, I am grateful for..."

Pause again for another moment of centering silence and quiet reflection.

3 We come to an awareness of God's presence in our own experience.

Silently contemplate the question:
"When have I acted from love?"

Silently contemplate the question:
"When have I acted from fear?"

Based on your contemplation, create your intention to move forward as an expression of God's Love.

4 We plan and move forward with God.

"God, help me to manifest your presence today by..."

Invitations to Community

- Paul describes the whole creation groaning as it waits for freedom. Remember those who suffer from creation's bondage today through disease, decay and disaster. Pray for all our suffering brothers and sisters, that God may lead them to peace and liberty.
- Jesus teaches us that good and evil exist together, like wheat and weeds in a farmer's field. To what evils of intolerance, faithlessness or selfishness do we cling in our own hearts? Pray that we come to know ourselves as God's own good wheat.

Suggestions for Families

We suggest you plan an "ideal day." The family decides together what constitutes an ideal day (clear blue skies? temperatures in the 70s? a light breeze blowing?), then agrees to drop all other activities on that day and spend it together outdoors. Enjoy God's beautiful creation together!

Start today an old fashioned chain letter. Send the same letter to seven people. In your letter describe something for which you are grateful. Also in the letter, invite the recipients to send their own set of seven gratitude letters. From this small effort and humble start, a great wave of gratitude might grow. (Note: you might also accomplish this through e-mail.)

Prayer Starter

God, help me to keep
my eyes on the glorious freedom
that is to come...

