



16th Sunday of OT
July 23, 2023 - Cycle A



SO SMALL



SETTING

The wheat and the tares. We are a bit of everything. Life is a dance of contrasts. Good and evil, smiles and tears, love and hate, good and evil, light and shadows.

The invitation is to be good as our Father is good. Good and evil coexist in the world and in this dance of contrasts, where do you place yourself? which side do you take? How and when do you do the "weeding"?

Sow the good seed, give time to time. Look at yourself before looking at the other.

Do not go beyond yourself, that is the starting point from the hands of the Lord who cares for you and accompanies you, in your own time.

SINGING. ONLY YOUR SPIRIT - IXCÍ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RfgXYqhDcg>

GOSPEL - Matthew 13, 24 – 43

«Jesus proposed another parable, saying: «The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while his people slept, his enemy came, sowed weeds among the wheat, and left. When the grass sprouted and produced fruit, then the tares also appeared. The master's servants came up to him and said, "Lord, didn't you sow good seed in your field? How come it has tares?" He answered them: "Some enemy has done this." The servants said: "Do you want us to go and gather it?" harvest, I will say to the reapers: First collect the tares and tie them in sheaves to burn, and the wheat collect it in my barn."» Another parable he proposed to them: «The Kingdom of Heaven is similar to a mustard seed that took a man and sowed it in his field. It is certainly smaller than any seed, but when it grows it is bigger than the vegetables, and it becomes a tree, to the point that the birds of the sky come and nest in its branches. He told them another parable: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like yeast, which a woman took and put into three measures of flour, until it was all fermented." All this Jesus said to the people in parables, and he spoke nothing to them without parables, so that the oracle of the prophet might be fulfilled: I will open my mouth in parables, I will publish what was hidden from the creation of the world. Then he dismissed the crowd and went home. And his disciples came to him saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." He replied: "He who sows good seed is the Son of man; the field is the world; the good seed are the children of the Kingdom; the tares are the children of the Evil One; the enemy that sowed it is the Devil; the harvest is the end of the world, and the reapers are the angels. In the same way, then, that weeds are collected and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. The Son of man will send his angels, who will collect from his Kingdom all scandalizers and the workers of iniquity, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; there will be the crying and the grinding of teeth. Then the just will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

The lesson of the parable of the sower, which we read last Sunday, could be formulated in this way: the final germination of the Kingdom will not take place without resounding failures. The parable of the tares continues and raises a question. Apparently changing the terrain type was difficult, however it was possible to intervene to suppress the parasite. But the story tells us that the owner is opposed to this proposal.

At least two lessons emerge from this parable: **the first** is a principle of response to the problem of the origin of evil: **it is not God who creates it**, nor is it the owner of the farm who sows the tares. **Second lesson**,

classifying the grains is something that corresponds to the owner of the field and he will do it when he thinks he should. Let's translate: **Uprooting evil, corresponds to God, and not to anyone else, Who are you to judge a servant who does not belong to you?** » says Paul in the letter to the Romans (Rom 14, 4). Jesus invites us to accept our condition as creatures in which good and evil are permanently mixed. Without a doubt, Paul points to the temptation of elitism that seizes certain communities.

However, there will come a day when the owner of the harvest will say that the time has come to make the selection. Let us understand then that when Jesus opposes the wheat to the tares, we are all concerned: because we are all, at the same time, humble and arrogant, just and evil, wheat and tares, and we will find exactly the same opposition in the parable of the last judgment of Mt 25,31-46.

After the story of the tares, Matthew offers us two other small parables. Through them, Jesus will invite us to trust, patience and humility. Patience: the harvest will come. This message, which is the echo of the first reading, suggests a new reading of the parable of the tares: if God shows himself to be so patient, perhaps it is due to the fact that he cannot risk losing the good sheaves trying to pull weeds (good gardeners know this risk). But it is, above all, because God never despairs at the possibility of transforming the tares of our hearts into grains of good wheat! Modesty!

clues for prayer

- What fruit has more weight in myself? Do I know how to give myself like wheat or am I proud like tares?
- Do I focus more on my weaknesses or do I focus on those of others?
- How do I face life?

AMBIENTAL MUSIC



BLACKBIRD – JUSTIN WHITE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iIRw7OQuBk8>

BEYOND APPEARANCES

God's kingdom
it is the good seed.
There are other types
of seeds,
that displace,
that overwhelm,
that dwarf,
are the seeds
of evil
Let's distinguish between
the good seed and
the bad seed
be sowers
of the good wheat,
detect the weeds,
Especially yours.
like grains of wheat,
bear good fruit,
like mustard seeds,
let the birds
they perch on your
branches.
multiply as
yeast, dough
appease your
tense moments,
With gestures

and words soft.
Get away from that evil
in the form of contempt
in the form of
marginalization,
in the form of abuse,
in the form of humiliation
in the form of war
Discover the tares.
Be strong and patient,
in God's time.
The Kingdom is life
in the form of a hug,
in the form of a caress,
in word form,
in the form of listening,
in the form of dialogue
in the form of reception,
horizon shaped,
in the form of healthy
humanity.
sow with
the welcoming gesture
and the good word
make it possible
the kingdom.

SINGING. THANK YOU LORD - Fran Correa ft Cristóbal Fones

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IaqIyMNqXmE>



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