

Homily Rerun: July 23, 2017 ~ Fr Kachy



The three Parables we heard today all speak about growth of one kind or another, and so they also imply some level of patience. Jesus gives parable after parable about the Kingdom of Heaven because He knows something that He wants us to grasp its beauty that we cannot begin to imagine.

Let us not confuse that the parable on the wheat and weeds is *NOT* about the Last Judgement; it is about patience. From that perspective, it might seem in this Parable almost as if the weeds will be given time to become wheat—impossible in nature, but possible in this kind of imagery, not so different really from other Scriptures, such as Ezekiel’s vision of dry bones being covered with flesh and returning to life.

When Jesus explains the Parable, however, we see that the patience on the landowner’s part is just to allow the wheat to mature. So divine patience here is primarily not to allotted “**weeds**” but for the “**wheat**” to “**mature!**” This is in line with what scripture says:

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. (1Pet 1:6-7)

Patience implies “wait, endure, persevere, give time, postpone, hold your fire”; and when you are doing all this it is not because you have no right or reason to demand immediate justice but for the sake of righteousness and because we have no right of judgement.

This Christian patience is something practical human wisdom doesn’t want to accommodate. History has it that ideological differences have triggered off the bloodiest enmities between societies:

- ◆ Communism vs Capitalism
- ◆ Catholicism vs Protestantism
- ◆ Christianity vs Islam
- ◆ One ethnicity vs another

Jesus challenges us today to change our attitude towards our brothers and sisters having different opinions about some values and cultures or interests. But remember that ***Jesus doesn’t say they are always right!*** Nor does he tell us to say they are right. I know there are some folks out there who are now coming up with very absurd slogans scolding some of the best known Biblical values, morals and doctrines saying they have to be the way they are because they were probably created so, and that the church has no right to help them change! This is absurd!

The patience suggested for us by Jesus when we walk in wickedness doesn’t mean he thinks we are right! He knows among the faithful there are weeds – planted by the Devil. He only says:

- ◆ ***They have a God given temporal right of existence*** that will end in due time.
- ◆ ***We have to peacefully coexist in time*** for the sake of righteousness (Wheat) and for conversion (weeds).

God takes no delight in the destruction of the wicked rather he should turn from his ways and live. (Ezekiel 18:23)

Jesus who is meek and humble of heart says “learn from me” (***Matthew 11:29***)

And today from the book of Wisdom on divine patience we read these words:

Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose.

Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins. (Wisdom 12:18-19)