

Fr. Martin's Reflection – July 23, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our gospel reading Jesus shares with us a parable about the kingdom of heaven. God tells a story of a farmer who sowed good seed in his field but during the night an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. As the wheat grew, so did the weeds.

When the servants noticed the weeds, they asked the farmer if they should pull them out. However, the farmer wisely said, "No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest."

This parable teaches us important lessons about the kingdom of God and the reality of evil in our world. We are the wheat, called to grow and bear fruit for God's glory. But we live in a world where weeds, representing evil and sin, coexist with us. At times we might be tempted to eliminate the weeds to eradicate evil from our lives and society. However, Jesus cautions us against such impulsive actions. He reminds us that the final judgment belongs to God alone who will separate the wheat from the weeds at the appointed time.

Why does God allow evil to exist alongside goodness? Perhaps it is because God wants to give us every opportunity to turn away from evil, to repent and choose righteousness. God's patience and mercy are extended to both the righteous and the wicked, giving them a chance to change.

At the same time, let us also be aware of the weeds in our lives – those temptations, vices, and sinful tendencies that threaten to choke our spiritual growth. We must constantly seek God's guidance and strength to uproot these weeds from our hearts and minds, relying on God's grace to transform us into the image of Christ.

As we await the harvest, let us trust in God's wisdom and justice. God sees beyond what our eyes can perceive, and God will one day bring all things to their proper fulfillment. Until then, let us be steadfast in faith, hopeful in adversity, and fervent in our pursuit of holiness.

May the Lord grant us the wisdom to discern between wheat and weeds, the courage to uproot sin from our lives, and the grace to bear abundant fruit for God's kingdom.

Fr. Martin