

Sixteen Sunday Ordinary Time - A 2020
Wis. 12.13,16-19///Rom.8.26-27///Matt.13.24-43

→it is a common belief among many of us...that if you are good...you do the right thing...live in a nice neighborhood...go to church...pay your taxes...have a job...hug your kids...honor your parents...and vote...then life will be an unrippled pond...a calm sea of tranquility...a serendipitous haven of joy and uncomplicated ensemble of harmonious relationships...

→that is....until a weed appears....an unfortunate circumstance that disrupts our life...a cancer that nibbles away at your health....a business failure that liquidates your dreams...a child that plays roulette with their future...and a pesky virus that creates havoc in your life....

→we...of strong faith... tend to believe that God has a reason for everything that happens....even if that reason is not obvious....

→and sometimes, no matter how hard we try...we simply can't figure out God's plan...and even worse...is that when we can't figure things out...we make the mistake of jumping to the wrong conclusion...or to false assumptions....or bad judgments...or wrong assertions....

→**and.....**that is what today's parable about the wheat that we just heard in the gospel reading is all about.

PAUSE

→today's gospel continues the sequence of stories that we have been hearing for the past couple of weeks

→and very similar to the parables we've heard previously and similar to those we will hear in the coming weeks, today's story is a very simple story with a powerful message

→J. tells a parable....and then explains it to the disciples...so that they do not jump to the wrong conclusion or make a wrong assertion or speak a false judgment

→[and] the message of this parable is very simple

→it relates to us the basic reality that good and evil exists in the world

→J. uses very figurative lang. to explain good and evil in the world

--the image of wheat and weeds among the field

→[and] what is unique about parables is that the message of these stories is very often relevant to our lives today

→they contain images well known to the listener –a farmer sowing seeds...a shepherd caring for sheep...a woman baking bread.....to shed light on something that is not well-known....— the nature of the kingdom of God or who one might consider a neighbor....

PAUSE

→good and evil, as we all know, exists today, and it will continue to exist

→that is a fact, it is the way of the world

→HOWEVER THE POINT OF THE STORY....is that eventually the wheat, "GOODNESS" will be separated from the weeds [and] good will triumph over evil

→[and] that is what you and I believe, that is the basis of our lives, that is the foundation of our faith

→our baptism made each of us, one of those seeds of wheat

→our baptism planted the spirit of Christ in each one of us

→our baptism made us members of Christ's body

→and as we live our lives, the task before us, and the challenge of this gospel, is to allow that seed which was planted at our baptism to grow and nurture ourselves and each other into healthy plants of wheat

→to become strong vibrant members of Christ's body

→and we do that best by simply living as people of faith

→the purpose of our lives here on earth, very simply is to produce good fruit

---to produce much grain...and grow a living spirit of Christ among us by striving to become like Christ in so many ways

→through our forgiveness

→our helping one another

→our compassion and charity

→.....in simple terms, by imitating our life after that of Christ

PAUSE

→it is undeniable that all of us have a some weeds as part of us

---we all sin...it's a very real part of our lives and world

→however we also have the capacity and the power to distinguish good from bad, right from wrong...

to turn away from evil....and do what is right

to create a healthy and wholesome social morality

[and]....to be good and fruitful to ourselves and to one another

→and we have the capacity and power to bring the spirit of Christ to one another and to live lives exemplifying the Spirit of Christ

→the seed of wheat was planted in each of us at our baptism

→and all the tools we need are before us and available to each of us

→all we have to do is make that seed grow and develop and we do that BEST by the way we live and act!

finis