

Homily by Fr. Victor Perez 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

In the Gospel we see a parable about Weeds and Wheat. Which do you want to be a wheat or a weed? Of course a wheat. We want to bear fruit, we want to be the ones who are gathered in the barn, not those who burn.

But when the wheat grows so does the weeds? This was done while the workers were sleeping. Where do the weeds come from? An enemy has done this.

And so in our world the weeds and wheat grow together. We have to decide to be the wheat, those who love goodness and hate evil. Those who live for the truth and resist the devil's lies.

To be wheat we need to be people who allow God to live in us, to allow our soul to be filled with God's love. To bear fruit we need to have an interior life and not live just for the flesh, but instead recognize that God dwells in our soul.

But evil triumphs because good people do nothing. We sleep and we give in more and more to the evil seeds, the lies of the enemy. We stop praying and just act like everyone else.

The devil has sown lies in our world.

We see a world presented to us on TV constantly that God is distant. God is just not in the thought process of most people. He isn't part of this world it would seem. All that matters is this world: pleasure, success, romance, and material things. Of course there are some shows and movies that truly do inspire and these we should hold on to.

Even since youth you learn certain things. To be happy means to have a lot of money. Think of all the movies of rags to riches.

Or kids learn from a young age to have a crush on others at a young age and they play at romance way too young. This is taught even on kids youtube videos. I saw music video of a young blond boy rapping. He is texting a girl who looks like she is 11. She hides her texts from her mom. The mom stares meanly at the boy as he meets up with her daughter to go on a date.

In other words the mom shouldn't interfere.

Weeds appear and we wonder why. The evil one did this while we slept.

For example a child goes to catholic school all his life grows up and doesn't practice. An enemy has done this. Where was mom and dad teaching the faith? We sleep.

The Catholic school became about elitism. The school taught Catholicism as one view among many but not as the fullness of truth, not showing the beauty of the truth.

As one catholic school principal told my friend who was trying to apply for a teaching job. We don't want to convert the students.

An enemy has done this.

Even in the Church we have slept. We no longer talk about the last things: Heaven, Hell, death and judgment for fear of offending. We seem to think everyone is going to Heaven. No need to strive against evil, no need to go to confession.

I thought you sowed good seed. But we slept. While we sleep the enemy has planted bad seeds.

The lies of the sexual revolution. Sex is not about marriage and procreation but just about hooking up. Think of all the movies that mock virginity and people just jump into bed together so casually. It becomes meaningless and it makes for not so romantic movies.

Children are just choices to make you happy. Marriage is not about children but just about feeling happy, feeling romance, not about loving like Jesus and dying to self but about feeling love.

The divorce rate infidelity skyrocket, pornography in our culture. Abortions. People then thinking abortion is a right. Tons of weeds in our culture. An enemy has done this.

How about the fashions. Parents let their teenage kids dress completely inappropriately. So much of the clothing is immodest and so hard to find anything modest.

These are lies of the enemy that make one grow up just caring about vanity, superficial and being loved, popular and getting attention. All that matters is sex appeal. But this degrades the human person.

But we forget to instill in kids the love that truly Matters. The love of God.

So parents need to love God more than their kids. This is the secret. A father who loves God more than he loves his kid will be an awesome father. The devil will fear him. The kid will grow up knowing God is real and we owe Him our worship and we have to act in a way that pleases Him. They will honor their dad because their dad is obeying someone above Him.

To be a good dad or mom you better be praying. Pray to be able to love your kids as he does, to have the wisdom to know what they need according to their temperament. You have to pray. Jesus is guiding you and your kids will sense that He is real.

The weeds grow along with the wheat. Let them grow together.

We have to be different than the weeds. The wheat will be gathered in God's barn. The weeds will be burned.

We shouldn't try to be like everyone else. We have to be the wheat to bear fruit.

The good seed are the children of the kingdom. Why are they seed?

Because a seed must die to bear fruit. The field is the world. We are called to die to this world like Christ. We have to die with Christ and live our lives in lives of love. Be faithful to the truth even if we suffer persecution for it. Then we will bear fruit wheat.

Because of great men who lay down their lives, we become good, we become wheat.

We have to be that good seed. Jesus says unless a grain of wheat fall to earth and die it remains alone, but if it die it beareth much fruit.

Let us not fear being different. The first reading says God rebukes temerity in those who know Him. We know God is with us.

We need to spread his good seed, the truth. As St. Bernadette said, "It is not my responsibility to make you believe but just to declare to you the truth." What you do with it is up to you.

We need to pray and so Resist the lies of the devil.

No one wants to be a weed and not bear fruit. Our soul hungers to bear fruit. Our soul hungers for God. We can possess God in our soul.

Let us pray so we don't love bad things, but love the good.

Many men look for false satisfaction in images, in false communion with images but they cannot fill your soul and so you trade intimacy with God and possessing God in your soul for nothing. For a false intimacy of lust with people who aren't there, who are just images.

Or instead of feeding your soul you seek to get high and instead become encrusted in the flesh when you think you are feeding the Soul.

We have to love and sacrifice in all humility and in gratitude for all God gives us. His grace is not lacking to us. We have to allow the Spirit to guide us and use us to pray for others. This is the greatest act of love. To pray for others and they don't need to know it. But God will bless them and maybe instead of being a weed they will become a wheat because you have given your life, you have sacrificed, you have loved.

So let us pray in this Mass, let us open our hearts to God, allow His grace to come down and water this seed. Let us grow to become wheat and have hearts full of God's love capable of transforming the world.