

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Gospel Reflection

The longer version of this Gospel contains a Gospel Sandwich. Between the parable of the weeds and wheat and Jesus explanation to the disciples, are two additional parables, the mustard seed and the yeast. Jesus waits to explain the parable until they have moved from a public setting to a private one. The disciples want Jesus to explain the parable of the weeds.

Jesus is criticized by his purist contemporaries, the Pharisees and Sadducees, for inviting outcasts to eat with him. He answers this criticism with the parable of the weeds and wheat. It is not up to man but rather up to God to separate the wheat from the weeds, the believers from the unbelievers. The wheat and the weeds cannot be distinguished from each other while they are growing in the same field, or while they are living in the same community. There are weeds as well as wheat in the Church now. There is no need to prematurely attempt to separate them in this current life. The weeds are presently indistinguishable from the wheat but at the end, God will separate them. The Church must meanwhile, be patient.

There are true and false believes in churches today, but we should be cautions in our judgments because only Christ is qualified to make the final separation . If we start judging we may damage some of the good plants. It is more important to judge our own response to God. Jesus often uses these end of age words to refer to the coming judgment. Weeping indicates sorrow or remorse and gnashing of teeth shows extreme anxiety or pain. Those who say they don't care what happens to them after they die don't realize what they are saying. They will receive judgment for living in selfishness and indifference to God.

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