

**God himself is our help!**

Wisdom 12:13; 16-19

Psalm 86:5-6; 9-16

Romans 8:26-27

Matthew 13:24-43

In the first reading we are reminded that God's might shows perfection when his power is disbelieved. His mastery over all makes for leniency and he rebukes temerity in those who know him. God is just and kind, allows repentance, and judges with clemency.

The Psalmist acknowledges that the Lord abounds with kindness to all who call upon him for he is good, forgiving, merciful, and gracious. With this in mind he asks the Lord to hear his prayer, turn towards him, and give him the strength for his daily tasks.

In the second reading Paul explains that the Spirit comes to our aid in times of weakness and intercedes for us in unexplainable ways since we often do not know how to pray as we ought. Our hearts are searched, our intentions known, and we are aided according to God's will.

In the Gospel Jesus teaches in parables and tells how the evil one sows weeds among the good seed. The weeds, he says, are the children of the evil one, evildoers who cause others to sin. At harvest time, the good and the bad will be separated, the wheat will be harvested, the weeds burned. The kingdom of heaven is likened to a small seed that grows into a large bush or the expansion of dough that grows under the influence of yeast.



The Father created the Kingdom,  
The Son tells us it is at hand,  
The Holy Spirit magnifies it within us.

Wisdom speaks of the power that attends our God and in this power he is kind and compassionate towards our weaknesses and makes an infinite presence tangible to us. The psalmist acknowledges this and reminds us to continue in prayer and we are not to be timid in our requests for help from the Spirit. In the Gospel Jesus teaches us that the good and the bad are oftentimes mixed together and we need to discern the influences around us. Be transparent as a child in your goodness and be careful with the proud who can hurt us in their opaqueness.

In the Gospel parables Jesus emphasizes ideas about the Kingdom of God which he proclaims is at hand. In the parable of the weeds the farmer is wise and does not follow the well-intentioned suggestion of his servants who would root out the weeds from among the young wheat. He tells them to let them both grow until harvest time so that the wheat can be harvested without damage. The weeds, on the other hand, are harvested at the same time, allowed to dry, and can then be used for kindling. The enemy, who planned harm, is now outwitted on both accounts; and so it is that wisdom will guide us to recognize what is good and to transform what appears to be stumbling blocks into stepping stones. God's power is such that even evil intent and doings will be transformed into something useful for the community of the faithful. When the situation seems helpless simply let go and let God!

**The Parable of the Weeds Among the Wheat**<sup>1</sup> describes how the enemy planted weeds



amidst the good wheat when the farmer is unaware. Hence, when the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds also appeared. He decided, at this time, not to pull them up, against the advice of his workers, because this would uproot too many of the wheat; hence, let them grow together and gather them at harvest time when they can be separated, keeping the good fruit but bundling up the weeds for burning.

When you hear of corrupt persons among the good community it is the Evil One who does this as he desires to mix in the bad with the good and confuse the innocent. No one who is begotten by God commits sin<sup>2</sup>, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot sin because he is begotten by God. In this way, the children of God and the children of the devil are made plain; no one who fails to act in righteousness belongs to God, nor anyone who does not love his brother.

Furthermore, there are times when corrupt persons have indulged in their sinfulness seemingly without constraint, not identified at early stages since then it could possibly harm the faith of many innocent persons.....but in contrast a point is reached when their sinfulness must be pointed out and they must be rooted out even before the final harvest time has come; witness the recent scandals in religious communities when corrupt leaders are called out! Good and righteous communities are constantly being harassed by the Evil One.

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 13:24-30

<sup>2</sup> 1John3:9-10