

**July 19, 2020 | 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

[WIS 12:13, 16-19](#)

[PS 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16](#)

[ROM 8:26-27](#)

[MT 13:24-43 OR 13:24-30](#)

*By Don Timmerman*

Whoever wrote the Gospel of today was certainly not a farmer. A farmer would not allow the weeds to grow with the wheat since it would prohibit the wheat from growing well. But, of course, that was not the intent of the writer. The writer was referring to the basic message of Christ: love your enemies and do good to them. The enemies who planted weeds among the wheat did wrong. What is the response of the farmer? Let them grow together, and in the end, the weeds will meet their fate. It is interesting that the workers were slaves. So the farmer was not just as well in having slaves do his work.

We are all called to love the enemy. Our job is not to destroy the enemy. In the end, justice will be carried out. Those who do wrong are never happy campers. They are very sad and disgruntled people. That is their punishment for doing wrong. We are not called to do the same as the enemy and do bad things to the enemy in retaliation or to gain revenge. That is not what we are called to do. We are not to be executors of justice. We are called to seek justice. We are to be peacekeepers, not punishers of those who do wrong. Only love can overcome evil.

The recent marches for justice are an example. If we are Christians we will not do harm to those who try and stop us from marching for justice. We are marching not to hurt anyone, but to demand justice. We are calling for people to change their beliefs about other people and urge them to change their behavior toward others. Dr. Martin Luther King, a Christian minister, often said to his followers that they should not do harm to those who harm them. He told them to allow the weeds to grow up with the wheat. In the end, the weeds will suffer unhappiness and suffering while the wheat will thrive and become good food for the people.

What is good about protests for justice is that since the marches began, people are starting to care more for each other. Recently, I left my knife in the community garden. I thought that I would never see it again. But one day while I was weeding the garden, a Black man came up to me and asked, "Is this your knife? I saw you working in the garden and thought that you had left it here." I thanked him a lot since I was missing the knife. I had to ask myself why I thought I would not see the knife again. It struck me that I am racist. I thought that because it is in a Black neighborhood that it would never be returned. It was a lesson for me. It taught me never to judge a person by the color of his or her skin. It taught me that we all need to grow up and to be better people together, not to be weeds.

If we take out the weeds we also take out the crop. God does not create junk or evil people. All humans are created in the image of God. Jesus, taught that God loves all people just as the sun shines on the bad and the good, so we are called to treat each other equally. When we do not treat everyone as equals we have evil. We will have weeds. Remember that we all are weeds at times. We must work to become wheat and to nourish, not tear down, other wheat.

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