



# Daily Reflections

**July 23, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **Matthew 13: 24-43**

Jesus proposed another parable to the crowds, saying:

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened

to a man who sowed good seed in his field.

While everyone was asleep his enemy came

and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off.

When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well.

The slaves of the householder came to him and said,

'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field?

Where have the weeds come from?'

He answered, 'An enemy has done this.'

His slaves said to him,

'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds  
you might uproot the wheat along with them.

Let them grow together until harvest;

then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters,

"First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning;  
but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

He proposed another parable to them.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed  
that a person took and sowed in a field.

It is the smallest of all the seeds,

yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants.

It becomes a large bush,  
and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'" He spoke to them another parable.  
"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast  
that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour  
until the whole batch was leavened."  
All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables.  
He spoke to them only in parables,  
to fulfill what had been said through the prophet:  
I will open my mouth in parables,  
I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation  
of the world.  
Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house.  
His disciples approached him and said,  
"Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."  
He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man,  
the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom.  
The weeds are the children of the evil one,  
and the enemy who sows them is the devil.  
The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.  
Just as weeds are collected and burned up with fire,  
so will it be at the end of the age.  
The Son of Man will send his angels,  
and they will collect out of his kingdom  
all who cause others to sin and all evildoers.  
They will throw them into the fiery furnace,  
where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.  
Then the righteous will shine like the sun  
in the kingdom of their Father.  
Whoever has ears ought to hear."

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Using a parable, Jesus explained the presence of evil in the world and why God allowed evil to exist. Many people in our world today have taken the unfortunate position that evil does not exist! But people of faith, however, recognize that evil is a power that is active in the world and that the Christian must content with it daily. The good news is that the power of evil to rob us

of eternal life was broken on Calvary once and for all. Each day we must live life in imitation of Jesus and pray for courage and protection.

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## **Food for your Journey**

Harry Ironside, for 18 years pastor of Moody Memorial Church in Chicago, understood the folly of trying to separate the wheat from the tares.

He was fond of telling the story of Bishop Potter. He was sailing for Europe on one of the great transatlantic ocean liners back before taking cruises was popular.

When he went on board, he found that another passenger was to share the cabin with him. After going to see the accommodations, he came up to the purser's desk and inquired if he could leave his gold watch and other valuables in the ship's safe. He explained that ordinarily he never availed himself of that privilege, but he had been to his cabin and had met the man who was to occupy the other berth. Judging from his appearance, he was afraid that he might not be a very trustworthy person.

The purser accepted the responsibility for the valuables and remarked, "It's all right, bishop, I'll be very glad to take care of them for you. The other man has been up here and left his for the same reason!"

I think of a hard young man who'd come to faith in Christ out of one of the gangs that roam the streets of Belfast, Northern Ireland. The boy had started to show up faithfully at Sunday services and, at one of them, brought along with him some of his gang-member friends. The latter young men were a lot weedier than their sponsor and so began to act out during the worship service.

Finally, when this had gone on for too long, the first young man turned upon his compatriots and said in a voice that all could hear, "Would you shut your # \$ ^ % & @ mouths; Jesus is @ # \$ % \$ % # great!"

The incident provoked the call for an elders' meeting immediately after church. As they gathered, one of the elders fumed, "We've got to do something about that Ryan boy."

Most of the others murmured their agreement and the oldest and most respected of the Elders spoke up. "I concur," he said.

“Let’s throw him out,” one of the others injected.

“Actually,” said the wizened saint, “I was about to suggest that we mark that young man for future leadership. There’s a fiber and faith there that I think has promise.”

—Daniel D. Meyer, “Of weeds and wheat: How do you spot a saint?”  
November 3, 2002, Christ Church Web Site, cc-ob.org.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Through Your death and resurrection You destroyed the power of sin and death over me. With gratitude in my heart for Your wonderful victory, may I live the life You intend for me to live. Amen.