



Daily Reflections

July 23, 2016

Scripture

Matthew 13:24-30

Jesus proposed a parable to the crowds.

"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.””

Our Scripture Reflection

Genesis tells us that what God created was good (Genesis 1: 12), especially the "crown" of His creation: Man. But then, the mystery of evil entered the world. Jesus teaches us about the mystery of evil in our Gospel text. While God allows some evil to exist, all evil will be purged when the Kingdom comes in its fullness. While we wait, we have work assigned to us, namely, to cultivate the good entrusted to us.

Food for your Journey

People who spend a great deal of time in their gardens attest to the natural mindfulness that gardening requires. What could be more naturally mindful than weeding? It requires a great deal of sustained attention. Weeds need to be taken up with care: Pull too hard, and the weed breaks in your fingers, leaving the root to grow and spread. Different weeds need different techniques and, sometimes, tools. When we weed our gardens, we have to pay attention to where and how we walk and bend. Move too far in one direction or another, and we'll squash growing things.

-Sura Lama Das, *Awakening to the Sacred*.

Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, Thank You for creating me in Your image and likeness and giving me work in this life to complete in Your name. Help me to use the time that You have given me to give You glory and honor. Amen.