

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith In Laity Corner



16 Sunday Ordinary Times

Pulling Weeds?

Readings *Ws.12:13, 16-9; Mt.13:24-30*

Readings for this 16th Sunday of Ordinary times come as humans ponder, to what extent have we lost the essence of why God created us. Following the media reports ... ‘youths laugh as they video a man drowning; 9 people die in an *oven level* trailer- human trafficking; a president explores his power to pardon- but claims he did nothing; Congress willingness to push a health care bill that most haven’t read and will remove millions from health coverage. These are just a few of the national weeds, we have so many, there is no need to look or comment further. What is the reading message for us and humanity this week?

The opening words from the Book of Wisdom, aligns us with much needed hope.

“For neither is there any God besides You, who have the care of all.” (Ws.12:13)

It will be hard for those observing the unfolding of human weaknesses to not question the love God has for the welfare of us all. Does He understand? These words provide us with some direct consolation. Yes, God is the one who sees and hears.

“But as You are righteous, You govern all things righteously.” (Ws. 12:15)

Yet, with these words we find an anxious consolation, if we allow these to sink-in. A ‘righteous God’ in the midst of these horrible stories... How can He permit this? As humans we recoil from what see in our midst.

“Your might is the source of righteousness. (Ws. 12:16)

The struggle is real for the families who lost relatives, the struggle is fearful for those who are retiring without a source of income, the struggle brings anxiety as we watch our country once priding itself with strong democratic structures, now hearing foundation stones crack. Again the response arrives in Scriptures this week.

“Your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all. (Ws.12:16)

God with the power to create has the right to judge with His *'measuring stick'*. He has the authority to bestow *'right judgement'*. As humans we tend to forget our place in the sight of God. He alone has the power and authority, whatever we have, has been bestowed upon us freely through God's mercy.

"But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency..." (Ws. 12:18)

We are all held in the mercy of God who is without dispute Almighty, but does not use His power to punish or condemn. So different from the format of human judgement... *'who does the crime, must suffer the time.'* How do we come to terms with God and His Will?

The Gospel explains in the parable of the wheat and the weeds. While we are *'off guard'* the enemy plots his attack.

"While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds." (Mt. 13:25)

What weeds can be planted as we are not paying attention in our lives? *(This is not a God issues as He neither slumbers or sleeps)* We are *'off guard'* and weeds are planted in our lives, unwittingly by ourselves or the circumstances and people around us. The question one has to ask is *'What are our weeds?' 'What weeds are we planting in the flourishing garden of others?'* Reflect on the times we do plant useless weeds in the lives of others. *What weeds do we know are condemning in the eyes of the 'lenient judge'?*

Yet the *'wise Gardener-God'* does not destroy all for the sake of the useless; He shows mercy and avails us opportunities to redeem ourselves. All of us are given as much chances as life allows, to redeem and root out the weeds in our lives.

"Let them grow together until harvest..." (Mt. 13:30)

The *weeds* in our lives will not go away, we can't use pesticides, there must be an effort to stifle these weeds with an abundance of love, consideration and forgiveness. *(Not an easy thing to do with 'stubborn' weeds)*. The day of reckoning will arrive, where God's mercy will cease and the good produce will be given its rightful place, and the *'weeds of this world'* will receive their judgement.

"I will say to the harvesters,

"First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning...." (Mt. 13:30)

We have to ensure that God is able to find us bundled with the harvested wheat.....

Let us not forget to pray for our upcoming Health Care Bill to be reviewed.

may the good of the people prevail...May we sow wheat grains of social equity and honesty.

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's readings written by
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