

# Sermon

◆ **First Reading:** *Wisdom 12:13, 16-19*

◆ **Second Reading:** *Romans 8:26-27*

◆ **Gospel:** *Matthew 13:24-43*

## PARABLE OF THE WEEDS AMONG THE WHEAT.

This is an interesting parable because it deals with the presence of evil in the world ; why does evil “live” along side goodness?, and goodness always triumphs over evil, why is that?, because basically people are good natured ; there is some good in the worst of us, and there is some badness in the best of us ; but the question is still intriguing, why do some people choose to do/say evil things? “because” says you “it’s easier to do evil” ; it’s frightening to observe how races of people can be taken in by an evil force, disguised as something good ; For example, go to the Imperial War Museum in Lambeth, London, to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Holocaust section ; in the Holocaust section you’ll see and hear displays of evil in action, it deals with the rise of Nazism (pronounced “Nazi-ism”) in Germany, 1931 – 1945, and how millions of Jews, communists, poles, gypsies, priests, nuns etc. were taken away and executed ; there were many in the Nazi Party who choose the path of evil because they saw Adolf Hitler as their saviour ;

One particular enforcer of evil was an SS general called Reinhard Heydrich, he was the deputy chief of the deadly secret police in Germany, then he was given the task of “germanising” Czechoslovakia, he became known as the “butcher of Prague” because of his total lack of compassion in carrying out his murderous duties. He was described in the following words “...general Heydrich was tall, his eyes were everywhere, he had the hands of a strangler, when he entered a room the atmosphere froze with fear, a truly evil person was present”\*\*\*

2. “so” says you “what does all this have to do with the parable of the weeds among the good seeds that were sown by a hard working farmer?” ; but why did the farmer allow the weeds to grow along side the wheat?, because by uprooting the weeds the good seed would have been damaged, so he decided “let them grow together ‘till harvest time, then the workers will separate the wheat from the weeds(or “darnel”..) ; the field is the world, the enemy who sowed the darnel is Satan, the reapers are the angels, the sower of the good seed is Jesus the Saviour, and harvest time is the end of the world, the weeds will be uprooted, taken away and burnt.....

Unrepentant evil doers will be separated from the virtuous, but hang on now!!, don't go off and say to yourself "oh well, you won't see me in among the weeds on Judgement day, I'm too good to be a WEED!"

No! you'r not!! And neither am I!, in the garden of our soul there is always something to be weeded out, our cutting remarks about someone who may have looked crooked at us 20 years ago!, our juicy gossip to make us feel good, our deceptive attitudes as if we know better than anyone else, the lustful eye, our lack of humility, showing-off our possessions etc., the list goes on and on ; In the context of the parable you and I have to work on getting rid of these "weeds" up to the moment when we take our last breath before leaving this passing world ; ultimately evil is born in the human heart, Our Lord spoke about this, he once said **"FOR FROM THE HUMAN HEART COME EVIL INTENTIONS ; MURDER, THEFT, FORNICATION, ADULTERY, AVARICE, MALICE, DECEIT, INDECENCY, ENVY, SLANDER, PRIDE AND FOLLY(as in, worldly nonsense)**

3.But on the flip side, what else can come from the human heart? How about **GOOD INTENTIONS, SELF CONTROL, RESPECT FOR THE PROPERTY AND REPUTATION OF OTHERS, COMMON DECENCY, GENEROSITY, MODESTY, HONESTY, HUMILITY, PATIENT TOLERANCE, GENTLENESS AND PURITY ;**

So, putting the above descriptions together we have the **FIELD OF LIFE IN PREPARATION FOR THE ETERNAL HARVEST** ; what needs to be weeded out of your heart and mine so that the field of our soul may be more pleasing to the Owner of Life, the Heavenly Father?

Perhaps for this Sunday we could examine at least ONE of our sinful inclinations(...a sinful inclination is not a sin in itself, but left to grow like a weed, may lead us to committing a sin...), then work on how best to keep that inclination under control ; the list of sinful inclinations also is endless, **GET WORKING ON YOURS**, and while you'r at it, thank the Lord for whatever is good, healthy and wholesome in your life presently ; Pray a decade of the Rosary for those who, due to the Pandemic, have lost their jobs and are now wondering how on earth they are going to feed their families and pay the bills, God help them....

\*\* for information sake!!!.....Gen.Reinhard Heydrich ended his days on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1942 in a hospital in Prague ; six days previously he was on his way to work in an open-topped Mercedes ; at around 10.30 a.m. on 27<sup>th</sup> May, his driver had to slow down at a hairpin bend opposite a tram-stop on a main road towards the city, two Czech resistance agents stepped out in front of his vehicle, the first agent pointed his semiautomatic at the “butcher”, the weapon jammed and failed to fire, the 2<sup>nd</sup> agent, Jan Kubis had a back-up plan ready, he immediately hurled a powerful anti tank grenade towards the Mercedes, instead of landing inside, the grenade landed at the front 4. right wheel and exploded, the driver had already gone in pursuit of the first agent ; Klein, the driver was seriously wounded by the agent : meanwhile Heydrich, with life threatening injuries, stumbled to the ground and was rushed to hospital ; he didn't recover, dying of sepsis 6 days later ; the reprisals for his assassination imposed on the people of Prague were devastating, over 8.000 citizens were speedily rounded up, interrogated, tortured or executed ; two Czech towns, Lidice and Lezaky, were razed to the ground, the assassination squad were betrayed and killed, ..... believe it or not many high ranking Nazis and soldiers were relieved that the “Butcher of Prague” was no more. What do you think? In such appalling atrocities committed by Heydrich, was such an assassination justified?? ....”mmm”!!

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