

July 27, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

DON'T EVEN WORRY ABOUT IT

By Robert Cogswell

Today's Gospel Acclamation and Gospel

*Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you
and is able to save your souls.*

JAMES 1:21bc

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."' "

MATTHEW 13:24-30

Reflection

"It's easy to know the right thing to do, yet hard to actually do it." This sounds like a reading from James but it's a quote from my dad. I can still hear his voice saying it. It was one of our last conversations before cancer took down all 6'2" of him. It's not far from "Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls."

What James and my dad were getting at is that God is in us. The Spirit has planted intuition, or you can call it a conscience, to provide us with direction. As humans, we might procrastinate, though we still *know* what we need to be about, whether it's a simple task or something more difficult like swallowing pride and asking for forgiveness. The thing we don't want to do is often the thing we should do, and we know it. Decide to act on it and be "Doers of the Word."

Listening to that presence within and taking a step can lead to immeasurable blessings even when we are faced with trials the world sends our way. Faithful perseverance brings joy, says James. If you're listening to God's presence within you and following through on it, then "it's all good."

Like listening to the still small voice within, Jesus' parable shared in Matthew's Gospel is relatable today. In this story, there are weeds among the good seed that has been planted. Is anyone encountering any weeds out there? Of course! These weedy nuisances may not create the most beautiful field in our life, but they're here and they teach us to be patient and persevere. Focus on being the wheat and don't be concerned about the weeds in our way.

I believe the weeds are circumstantial, distracting obstacles. They're not people. After all, they were planted by "the enemy" and God is not the enemy -- nor is God planting enemies. There's no need to look at your brother or sister and wonder, "Are you a weed in my wheat field?" (It may feel like it at times, but no.) In time, the weeds and wheat will be sorted, and we will have no more

troubles.

These two pieces from today's set of readings connect for me like different colors of paint forming the same big picture. In James, we are gifted with the Spirit planted inside of us. When we hear it and act on it, we are saved. In Matthew, yes, we face challenges. Yet we can focus on being who we were created to be and all will be well. Each reading offers a path to abide with God and when we do that, we have a little bit of heaven here on Earth. What a joy to think that when we are in right relationship, there are few things that can trouble us.



Wheat Field
Photo by Pixabay

For Pondering

- What do you sense that God has been guiding you to, but you are reluctant to take the next step?
 - What blessings might result by following through on something inspired by the Spirit?
 - What is distracting you from being who God created you to be?
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For Prayer

*Gracious God, thank you for the opportunity to know Your Great Love.
Draw me to You. Use all my senses to know You.*

*Let me hear Your voice speak through the sounds of life.
May it guide me to share Your grace and love with those I encounter.*

*Open my eyes to see Your goodness and gifts planted within me.
Let this nourish me to grow and bear fruit in any field.*

*Fill the air with the scent of memory.
May it remind me of Your presence through loved ones I've known.*

*Invite me to taste Your infinite creativity.
May Your endless recipes inspire invitations to community.*

*Tap me on the shoulder to ask me to connect with You.
Enable me to feel it and answer "Here I am."*

Amen.

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