

16th Sunday – Mathew 13:24-30

The Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds

Homily – Fr. Antony Chundelikkat

The first reading gives us a picture of a merciful and patient God. The Refrain for today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 85) has us singing, "Lord, you are good and forgiving!" The second reading reminds us that the Spirit of God goes on empowering us in our weakness, and, hence, we should be patient with ourselves. Finally, today's Gospel contains the parable of *the wheat and the weeds*, an agricultural parable with allegoric interpretation. Through this parable, Jesus assures us that we are the field of God. We are the ground He works as well as the plants He nurtures. We are the people He rests His hopes upon and the people in whom He plants good seed. We are the congregation He anoints with the Holy Spirit. God gives all of us sinners ample time to repent and, with His grace, change our lives. God calmly recognizes that there is evil in the world, but He sees that evil as no excuse for the good people not to do good with the power of God at their disposal. The parable tries to teach the need for tolerance, patience, and the acceptance of God's judgment to the Judeo-Christian community as well as to His Church and to us, His members. The parable also encourages us when we discover sin and weakness within ourselves and challenges us to open ourselves to God's love more and more. Each one of us is a combination of wheat and weeds. In each of us there are elements of the Kingdom of God and elements that are deeply opposed to it. Even Paul recognized that struggle within himself (cf. Romans 7:21-25*). This parable indicates that there will be a separation of "weeds" from wheat, good from bad fish (13:47-50), and sheep from goats (25:31-46). But this "harvest" will take place on God's timetable not ours. First, we need to be patient with ourselves. This parable was told so that we might not go around judging others as "weeds" or wheat. Judgment is the function of God the Father and His angels. Instead, the

parable asks us to take a close look at our own life with the understanding that, with God's grace, one can judge one's own heart, then repent and bear good fruit. We need to grow up as healthy wheat in God's field, leaving the "weeds" for Jesus to take care of.

**For more on this passage from St Paul's letter to the Romans Chapter 7: See also in "Home Worship" section on the website "We only appreciate the Good News when we understand how bad things really are"*