

16th Sunday Ordinary Time - A

- All three readings today draw attention to our INTERIOR LIFE
 - We have the exterior life we know – work, school, food, rest, . . .
 - But we also have an interior spiritual life – it can be God-centered, or not
 - 1st Reading describes characteristics of God in relationship to us
 - “Though You are master of might you judge with clemency, with much lenience you govern us”
 - “You taught your people by these deeds that those who are just must be kind and You gave Your children ground for hope, that You would permit repentance for their sins.”
 - This is how God relates to us & Wisdom tells us this for a reason
 - It is how we should relate to each other
 - This is also a way to interpret Jesus’ 3 parables today
 - There are good and evil people living side by side (*even here today*)
 - Jesus is tolerant and patient, letting them mature till harvest time
 - Side by side – we should inspire INTERIOR conversion
 - Not with exterior force – but inside – like yeast within dough
 - Not with big events → small little things (mustard seed faith)
 - Combining God’s way in Wisdom & Jesus’ parables – *Implications for us*
 - Wheat & Weeds together are like us – good & bad – side by side
 - And we judge each other – isn’t our attitude:
 - *We are wheat and will go to heaven*
 - *Bad people are weed and will burn in hell*
 - It’s not that evil doesn’t deserve condemnation
 - It’s that God has given us a different example in Wis.
 - This is how God deals with sinners
 - He loves them
 - “Though You O God are master of might you judge with clemency, with much lenience you govern us”
 - “You taught your people by these deeds that those who are just must be kind and You gave Your children ground for hope, that You would permit repentance for their sins.”
- This divine insight is God’s way (versus Our way)
- It shines new light on our relationship with those we condemn as weeds.
 - Our judgment condemns US
 - Our very ability to pray is corrupted by our lack of mercy
 - So St. Paul says “We don’t know how to pray as we ought, so the HS intercedes for us”