

16th Sunday Ordinary Time - A

- Usually when we think of parable of the seed we think of that other parable
 - Seed on path, rocks, good soil – nothing wrong with the seed
 - Seed is the WORD & lesson is what do we do with it?
 - HERE there is a difference
 - Jesus said “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who planted wheat, an enemy came and planted weeds”
 - Planted same time, grew under same conditions YET still weeds

A monk teaching this parable asked – what kind of weeds?

Darnel or Tares vs Wheat

Both start as a blade, grow a stalk, both have kernels as fruit

Wheat has a big firm kernel – Darnel has small seed like kernel - useless

You can't tell the difference until they mature

The text says “When the crops grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared”

Here in the Bahamas two boys grow up side by side

One becomes a community leader

One goes to Fox Hill

Wheat cannot help being wheat

Weeds cannot help being weeds – it's their nature

BUT it's not our nature to be weeds

OUR NATURE – includes being made in the image & likeness of God

It is our nature to be God's beloved

BUT – we sin – despite having image and likeness of God

Our human nature – original sin – predisposes us to sin

I know a man with a drinking problem – it caused problems in family – full of weeds

But, with a lot of hard work, he got into AA, turned his life around, and is helping others

He defeated his vice by growing his virtue – and the wheat grew, crowding out the weed.

- Within the life of every man and woman – we have wheat, virtues.
 - Within the life of every man and woman – we have weeds, vices – sin.
 - We have a vice muscle and a virtue muscle – **which do we exercise more?**
- Should God destroy us because of our weeds?
 - NOT! God is a patient lover – waiting for us to reject our vices, our sin.
He is not about to give up on His people

The question is – are we wheat, or weeds?

There is going to be a harvest – wheat to the barn – weeds don't

Do you want to be part of that heavenly harvest?

Cast aside your carnal nature and embrace the divine!