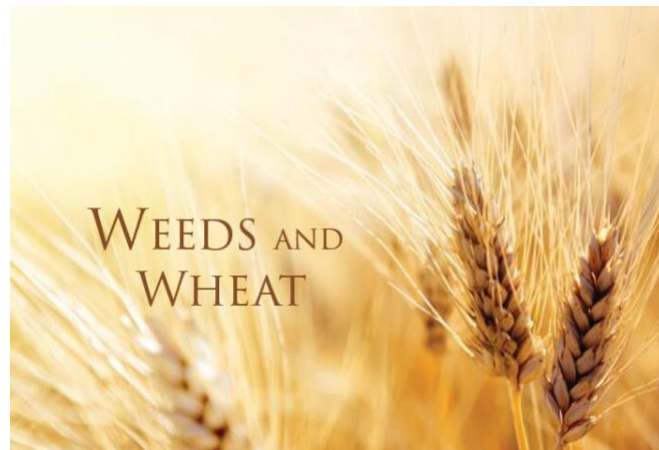


Sunday 23rd July 2023

Trinity 7



Today we hear another parable about things that grow! Jesus often used farming analogies to explain things to people, because a lot of the people he was talking to worked on the land or with animals.

His story about the wheat and the weeds growing together has a lot to teach us today, too. Like Jesus's disciples, we might think that it seems strange to allow the weeds to grow alongside the wheat and not to pull them up immediately, but Jesus is teaching us that he wants us to wait... to allow people time to learn more about God's love.... time to come into his kingdom when they are ready.

He doesn't force his love on anybody and some people will decide, sadly, that they do not want to be part of the Church. We might think we know who is right or wrong, good or evil, but only God can truly determine that. Our job is to pray for those who are reluctant to know Him.

In a way, we are all "weeds" because there are times when we all turn away from God, but he reaches out to us and gently brings us back to himself. Because of the work of Jesus, we are forgiven and made new - he can turn weeds into beautiful flowers! We are grateful for the blessing of forgiveness, and, because we know that God has forgiven us, we want to help others to learn about his love and forgiveness.

We might sometimes think we know better than other people, or that we can judge who should be in or out of the Kingdom of Heaven. It's important to realise that God will make those decisions. What we can do is love one another, and pray for those who have not yet accepted the Gospel.



This week's prayer:

Loving God, thank you for your love and forgiveness for us and for all your children. In your loving wisdom, help us to welcome others without judgement and to work with you in your time, rather than ours. Amen.

Adapted from Ministry-to-Children.com



The Parable of the Weeds

When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. Mathew 28:26 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 13:24-29



M A V W H F Q B B E W G Q I S
 H R M P S Y I U K D Y H O A J
 C L G A T U A E F I F H E O B
 J F R R E A P S L M N Y O A D
 O H O A Q W K R O D M G P T T
 T T W B M C S X O E V V D P A
 D D E L F G J E N O B U T O D
 X A H E V T C E E X T K R J M
 B G J A V I U C A D D L N C H
 M C W H R M X Z Q V V E M J A
 G Q C E R V J M D P V W V B Y
 L G A R E L E X P A U P D U Y
 S O W J B D T S E A G L Z R K
 J W O V U T S H T S X B L N O
 O X T V D G V N L L C M T I H

SOW	FIELD	GOOD	UPROOT	HARVEST
WHEAT	ENEMY	PULL	KINGDOM	SEED
PARABLE	HEAVEN	BURN	GROW	WEEDS

