



Holy Family LITURGICAL TABLE TALK

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Wisdom 12-13, 16-19 Romans 8:26-27 Matthew 13:24-30

THE HORS D'OEUVRE *Everyone must answer!*

Describe a time when you felt tangled up in a bad situation or the wrong crowd of people?

DIG IN! *Read together today's reflection.*

To refresh what was mentioned last week, St. Matthew wrote his Gospel to Jewish Christians. Because they were faithful Jews before becoming Christians, they would have built their lives on the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. This also called the “Pentateuch” (PENT-ah-took). With that in mind, St. Matthew does something very interesting. He has Jesus giving five different series of teachings. It is as though Jesus is establishing a new Pentateuch. One of these sections contains many of the most familiar parables. That is where today's reading comes from. It is the third of the five and it is often called the “Parable Discourse”.

Last week, Jesus told the Parable of the Sower. It is a story of someone who throws seed everywhere: on a path, on rocks, in thorns, and also in good soil. He says that the Word of God is the seed and that it takes root in good soil and produces a great deal of fruit.

Jesus continues to use seeds as analogy as he continues his teaching.

In this parable, there are the following characters:

- a sower
- seed
- an enemy
- weeds
- servants



Just like in the first parable, a sower is putting good seed in good soil and is expecting a good harvest. Then comes the enemy. He scatters weeds. The weed that is scattered among the seeds is one called “zinzanion”. This is a noxious weed that looks exactly like wheat when it is first starting to grow. You can't tell the weeds and the wheat apart. Jesus says that the servants wanted to rip out the zinzanion. However, he does not want to rip it out because it is growing next to wheat and he doesn't want to lose any wheat.

Please read Matthew 13:24-30 together.

TABLE TALK

Be vulnerable with yourself and one another as you reflect on and discuss the reading.

Can you recall a time that you were really glad that you were Catholic? Was there a time that you felt like the Church, the pope, your parish, or your pastor did the right thing and you were really pleased?

Have you ever been shocked or surprised by something the Church did? Have you been disappointed in the Church?

Was there a time that you faced a difficult decision and you feel that you responded as a real Christian should respond?

Have you ever been disappointed in yourself?

When you think about the Church and yourself, how do you think the parable of the wheat and the weeds applies to what you just recalled? Does it help?

Do you ever think, “Why doesn’t the Lord just take out everything that’s bad in the Church or bad in me?” Does the parable help you as you ask these questions?

How can you, in your current stage of life, grow in virtue and not allow the weeds around you to choke your spiritual life?

AND FOR DESSERT

Close your time together in prayer.

Lord, we pray for the Church and we pray for ourselves. We pray that the part of us that is aligned with your will continues to grow and we pray that the parts of us that are not aligned with your will continue to shrink. Help us to become more aware of the “weeds” in our life. Forgive us. Give us the strength from your Holy Spirit to put you first in our lives and to follow you more closely. We pray this through Christ who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

SONG SUGGESTIONS

to prepare your heart for Sunday's Liturgy

Graves into Gardens by Elevation Worship

How He Loves by David Crowder Band

Your Word by Hillsong Worship