

*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*

July 23, 2017

Seventh Sunday of Pentecost

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalms 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43



Weeds in the Garden. *Objects: A garden hoe.*

I have weeds in my garden. I made sure that I planted my garden in good soil, and yet, I still have weeds. As you probably know, one of the biggest enemies of a good garden is weeds. Weeds will rob the soil of the nutrients that help your plants to grow and many times they will choke out good plants. What can you do? Well, you could take a hoe and chop down the weeds, but if you do that, you will probably chop down some of the good plants by accident. Sometimes, it is best just to leave the weeds alone until it is time to harvest the crop. Then you can separate the weeds from the good plants.

One time Jesus told a story that compared his church to a garden that was infested with weeds. Sometimes there may be people in the church that do things that aren't very loving and they don't seem to believe what the Bible teaches. They sometimes say hateful things about the other members of the church and try to hurt them. They are like weeds in a garden.

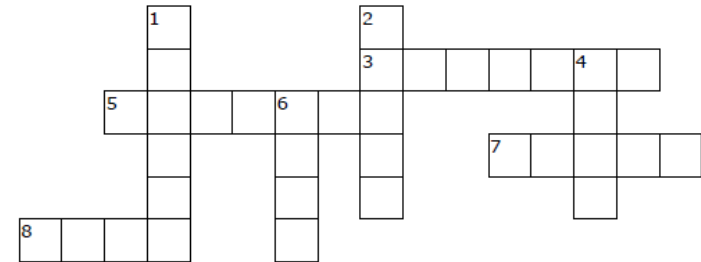
We have to be very careful about trying to do something to keep those people from hurting the church. In his story, Jesus said that we shouldn't worry about "pulling up the weeds" that grow around us. If we do, we may do more harm than good. He suggests that we leave the weeds for God to take care of and concentrate on loving God and loving others.

Dear Father, help us to love one another and leave the other matters in your hands. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. My word shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. Alleluia. (Isa. 55:11)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3. The time for gathering crops
- 5. Stories told by Jesus to teach his followers
- 7. A plant that crowds out the good plants
- 8. A building used for storing grain and housing farm animals

DOWN

- 1. The place where God is
- 2. A grain that is ground into flour used in cooking
- 4. A small pod placed in the ground to grow a plant
- 6. To damage or destroy by fire

WEEDS	BURN	SEED	HARVEST
HEAVEN	WHEAT	BARN	PARABLE

FRUIT ART: Let the child draw or find fruit pictures to create a collage. Add the words PRODUCING GOOD FRUIT FOR THE LORD as the title of the collage. Let the child decorate or draw a frame around their art as a special remembrance of today's lesson!



THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS

MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43

