

Jesus told many stories in the form of parables .. a form which had been used for a long time in Israel by many Jewish Rabbis. Jesus, was the master of the parable, examples of which were preserved by oral tradition. The parable is an indirect way of teaching a moral or religious lesson. Its purpose is to persuade us by having us reflect on our own daily experiences. In many of the parables we begin to understand the mystery of the kingdom of God. In the two parables of today's Gospel we see the small beginning of the kingdom, the mustard seed and the yeast and the flour, and then the great growth, the shrub where birds can build their nests and dough which rises in ferment. The reign of God, the kingdom, can also be likened to a man who sows good seed in his field. In the same field his enemy sows weeds. These are allowed to grow together till harvest for fear that in removing the weeds, the wheat may be pulled up with them. Like the seed, we are able to live side by side with non-believers... but we must be cautious that we do not accept attitudes and lifestyles of the weeds as we live together till harvest. As well as telling us about the kingdom, these parables tell us about God: patient, forgiving, always ready to give another chance etc.

- Which parable is your favourite

Catechist Reflection....

Our Joy Mixed Pain

an extract from **The Peace of Jesus**

by Joseph G Donders



pericope



"Kia inu kau ahau,
If I could just drink"

Te Pu Akonga Whakaponono Katorika ki Tamaki

Religious Education Team

Catholic Diocese of Auckland

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Suggested Approach with Children

23/7/17

Aim to continue to deepen the children's understanding of the importance of listening to the Word and keeping it in our hearts and minds.

Feeling into....

Invite the children to respond to how good and bad can go together
e.g. friends getting on / friends fighting

Recap from last week **The Parable of the Sower**

- do you remember what the word parable means?
(a simple story using everyday experiences to help people understand something important)
- and do you remember we spoke about Jesus sowing the seeds of God's love in our hearts
- have YOU Been Allowing God's Seed to GROW in Your Hearts? How?

Meeting with....

Today we have another parable (story) about a farmer and the seeds he plants

Listen to what Jesus tells us today.....

Read Matthew 13: 24-43

Catechists please note that we are only using the first parable today.

Prayer.... Loving God,
help us to always do what is right.
Help us to show others that we love you
by our words and actions.

.AMEN

PARABLES are a simple and vivid story with a message. Jesus used examples from daily life to catch his listeners attention. The message within the story showed the challenge of the kingdom. In a **PARABLE**, the important thing is the lesson of the whole story, the details are meant to highlight the main point.

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.....

23/7/17

adapted for children

Jesus says,

Imagine you are a farmer.

You go out and sow a whole field with good seed.

But then, one night, while you are asleep, an enemy comes,

sows lots of weeds in your field and runs away.

The good seed begins to grow beautifully,

but mixed up with the good plants are crowds of weeds,
spiky, choky, prickly weeds.

The farmer asks

where did all these weeds come from?

I sowed good seeds.

An enemy must have done this to cause trouble.

The farmer's men want to go and pull up all the weeds,
but the farmer stopped them.

He said,

*leave them to grow together in case you damage
the good plants by pulling out the weeds.*

Wait until harvest time and we'll cut them all down.

But, we'll put the good crop in the barn and burn the weeds.



Responding to....

- why don't farmers and gardeners like weeds?
they wrap themselves around the good plants and choke them
- why wouldn't the farmer in this story allow his men to pull out the weeds?
he didn't want to risk losing good plants
- do you think people can be like good seeds and weeds? How?
- why does God let them live side by side?
*God wants to give the weeds (people) a chance to
change their minds and hearts and come closer to him*

Every day we can make a choice
of how we are going to be (act) today.
We can be a good seed or a bad seed.

- Which do **YOU** think is the best way to be.... like the good seed or the weed?
- Which will **YOU** try to be this week and why?

Our Joy Mixed Pain

*an extract from **The Peace of Jesus***

by Joseph G Donders

There was good news
but there seemed to be
more bad news all
around Jesus and
around those first
to follow him.

Sometimes it was just
as if the seed of his word
did not fall on any soil at all.

While his following was growing,
the anti-power was growing too.
While he spoke in open places
in the light of day,
they came together
in the dark corners of the Temple,
their courtrooms
and security offices
to plot against him
during their endless
night meetings.

His followers
started to wonder
and he himself
wondered too,
and that is most probably
why, not only
to clarify his own
thought and mood
but also clarify
their thoughts and moods,
he told that parable
about the seed
again.

But now he did not mention
the drought or the birds,
the stones or the weeds
as the cause of
so much trouble;
now he spoke about
the enemy.

The enemy
he had met
when starting his life,
tempting him
to be interested
in himself only:
in his money,
in his honour,
in his power.
He overcame
the temptations,

That weed-seed
did not grow
in him
but it did
in them:

Judas was a thief,
James and John fought
for the first places,
and Peter, even Peter
was carrying a sword.

That was not all:
whenever they sat down
to tell about
what was happening
to them in their lives,
it was always the same mixture:
the good news
and the bad news
and most probably
more bad news
than good news
indeed.

Just like us
when we sit down
to talk like that:
inflation,
accidents,
sickness,
treachery,
war,
injustices,
famine,
and finally
death.

They asked him,
as we would ask him:
what about it?
and he himself
asked that other question:
what to do about it?

And while telling that story
he must have started to see
how the bad would be
outgrown by the good;
he saw that the good
would overgrow
all the bad;
he even saw
how the bad,
that should be fought,
produced the good
that would undo it.

He saw
the disasters
but also
the mercy.

Catechist Reflection....

He saw
the irresponsibilities,
but also
the reparations.
He saw the crimes,
but also
the rehabilitations.
He saw
the sickness,
but also
the care.
He saw the misery
of humankind,
but also
himself...

And he said:

the good is for sure,
the good is the outcome,
the good is the fruit,
the good is the harvest,
the good is the kingdom,
let reality grow,
let history take its course,
let the good decisions prevail
over the bad ones.

We are getting accustomed
~and evangelically so~
to see him in the poor
and the wretched.

We should see him also
in all those who help,
who are fighting the misery,
who are hospitable and welcoming,
healing and restoring,
educating and rehabilitating
those poor and
those wretched.

It is in our trouble
that he came;
and although we might
no longer be inclined
to pray:

O felix culpa,
O blessed guilt,
O happy rubbish,
O welcome injustice!

We might agree
with the visionary
William Blake:

"Man was made for joy and woe
and when this we rightly know
thru the world we softly go.
Joy and woe are woven fine
a clothing for the soul divine
under every grief and pine
runs a joy like silken twine."

And in the end

at harvest time,
it is he, our joy,
who will prevail,
winning
the final day.

For personal/group reflection...

Re-read from the top left hand side
of this page to the end.

Share any thoughts/insights

My/our prayer today is....