

## Pentecost 7A

July 23, 2017

A bit of a different discussion happened this week. Rather than dig into words and etymology for meaning, we let the words of the parable speak to the group and just reflected how the story hit us. The reflections are in red below. Note: this week we are off-lectionary for Christmas in July so these readings won't be heard unless you are at a church other than HOP.

### Other Readings

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalm 86: 11-17

### Readings for study

#### Romans 8:12-25

*Before: No condemnation for those in Christ*

- Brothers and sisters
- Debtors
- You will die/you will live
- Spirit of slavery to fall back into fear
- Spirit of adoption
- Abba/Father
- *We are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ*
- Sufferings/glory
- Present time/about to be revealed
- Creation waits with eager longing
- Futility
- Will of the one who subjected it
- Groaning in labor pains
- First fruits of the spirit
- Groan inwardly
- Redemption of our bodies
- *For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?*
- We wait for it with patience

*After: Do the current realities mean God does not love us? No!*

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 *<note: the text skips parable of mustard seed and parable of the yeast and another explanation of "why parables?">*

*Before: Parable of the Sower*

- Parable
  - o throwing one thing alongside another for comparison
  - o Hebrews are storytellers, we tend to approach the texts as analysts
- Compared
  - o Comparison is inevitable, some comparison is good but differences create prejudice
- Good seed
- Field
- Enemy
- Weeds/Wheat
  - o Is there genuine concern among the disciples that they might be the weeds?
- A reminder that prejudice simply means to pre-judge

- Maybe they are worried about figuring out who the weeds are
- We have labeled people weeds throughout history by family name, ethnicity, intelligence, and the group changes as culture changes
- Gather
- Came up
- Into the house
- Parable of the weeds
  - The disciples asking about the parable call it the parable of the weeds rather than the wheat and the weeds
  - We often focus on the negative
  - How do we focus and lift up the positive?
  - People tend to be motivated more when they're encouraged and told that they are good.
- Son of Man
- World
- Children of the kingdom
- End of the age
- Uproot
- Together
- Harvest
- Collect
- Bundles
- Burned
- Reapers
  - Is this a parable that teaches that only some are saved?
    - If so, are we truly saved by grace or are there some qualifications?
  - Is this a parable that is meant as a warning and call to repentance?
- Angels
- Weeping and gnashing of teeth
- Shine like the sun
- Let anyone with ears listen!
  - A call to heed the advice or warning. Does this parable make things clear?
  - The disciples seem concerned to understand the message. It's quite difficult to live in ambiguity.

*After: Three more parables (pearls and fish)*