

# TRINITY NEWS

## **Pentecost VI Wheat and Weeds. Sorting out the Good and the Bad**

Blocking unwanted thoughts requires thought-material that is different. Negatives cannot be fixed by more negatives. Unless I stop the negatives by adding something that is positive and life-enhancing, they will continue to torment me and others who receive them from me. But when I bring in positive thoughts, I have to reinforce them with other positive and refreshing thoughts. Otherwise I will lapse back into negatives. Negatives have more habitual power than positives, and they may lead to negative ends.

**We don't have to rise above situations. We need to rise above ourselves.** The world is an increasingly negative place, and the television presenter's delight in negatives is not their invention, though they don't often put their emphasis on positive outcomes. We seem to be entranced by negatives and unmindful of positive and wonderful things. But is this really true? Who are the people who add most to our lives? Surely it is those who are there for us in pleasing and unpleasing circumstances. Roger Federer didn't marry a stunning model or one of the beauties he escorted. Instead, he married a woman who brought light into a room when she entered and who "was there" for him. Motherhood has brought out her beauty.

The Parable of the Weeds in Matthew 13:24-30 reminds us of the perennial sorting out of good and bad in our lives. Do we root the bad straight out like an interfering weed, or do we wait to see what damage it really does? I guess that we do both according to circumstances. But in the end, as in the harvesting of a crop, they have to be sorted out.

When we sort out the good and bad in our own minds we have a better perspective to see what is right and wrong in people and situations. I have found these wise suggestions helpful from the wisdom of Christ and the Scriptures and the wisdom of many thoughtful people.

1. Don't label people with clever or not so clever names that are meant to de-personalise them. Go though some that you have used. Surprised? Take heart, we all are! Most times, people don't need punishment. They need reassurance not blunt or cleverly-worded opposition.

2. Banish tainted thoughts that are meant to lower the esteem of others. If your assumptions about them are correct, then they don't need your criticism. They need encouragement to do better. If our assumptions are incorrect, then we are under the condemnation of Christ in seeing the speck of fault in another's eye and failing to see the logjam of fault in our own person. Besides, tainted thoughts carry an activation of evil in some sense. That can lead to our undoing.

3. Don't try to explain yourself to people who show that they clearly dislike you because they are ineffective in hiding it. Just stay calm and poised and a better way will appear in time. Don't have fantasies about their punishment. You are then projecting harm on their lives and in turn punishing yourself, according to the teaching of Jesus. Moreover, someone else may come along who can change their mind far better than you despite your efforts.

Mental strategies are crucial in every emotional issue. When it comes to sorting out the good and the bad in our mind's view, those without mental constructs to help in searching for and preserving goodness are doomed to disappointment. To paraphrase George Santayana, **"Those who cannot remember the best of the past are doomed to repeat the worst of it."**

Bishop Arthur Jones

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## **THIS WEEK:**

### **Monday, July 21.**

*Finance Meeting, 5:30pm, Parish Office  
Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory.*

### **Wednesday, July 23**

*Bible study, 10:00am  
Group discussion, 7:30pm Parish Hall*

### **Thursday, July 24.**

*Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel*



## **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

*1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119  
Romans 8:26-34; Matthew 13:31-33,44-49a*

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