

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Homily

Patience is not a virtue that comes easily to us human beings. We so often just want to make things happen - **now**.

Our reaction when faced with wrongdoing is often to take action to get the offender to shape up, or to call for someone else to take action and get this sorted out.

We find it difficult to be patient with the misdemeanours of politicians and those in public life – sack them, shame them, do something, we find ourselves thinking.

Hastily we make a judgment of those who stand accused of crimes in our news bulletins, often locking them up and throwing away the key before the two minute item is over and the full facts are known.

We're like the farmworkers in the parable who urge the farmer to "do something" as soon as they discover weeds sprouting among the wheat. But Jesus offers a different approach.

Let them both grow together, both the wheat sown by God and the weeds dispersed by the enemy. "Wait. Have patience!", else "you might uproot the wheat along with the weeds."

The first reading takes this to a deeper level. The book of Wisdom tells us that patience is not just a moral virtue that helps avoid unnecessary conflict. Patience, forbearance, and leniency are among the most important indicators of who God is and how God treats us.

God's power is not the ability to make sure that good people are rewarded and bad ones punished as soon as possible. His greatness means helping the erring find the true path in kindness and mercy.

How fortunate we are that this is so! Because if we are honest, we know that we are not just wheat, and the people who make the headlines are not just weeds.

Today's good news is that God, while God will judge, he will be patient with **all** of us a while longer. And for that, let us give thanks.