



## Homily 18 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020

The words of Jesus in today's Gospel are both challenging and fearsome. It would seem that we are either wicked fit for the fires of hell or Just who will inherit the kingdom. It is challenging because as St Paul reminds us, not one of us is without sin while all of us have kindness and generosity in our character. Jesus himself acknowledges that it is when we are weakest that we are closest to God. Few of us are either totally evil or heroically good. Yet each of us who are faithful to Jesus knows of our need to deepen our loving relationship with Jesus.

Jesus uses extreme language to make a serious point. We may not be wholly one thing or another, but we are challenged to make significant changes to our lives. Jesus encourages us to review our lives in the context of his love for us. By shocking us with the severity of his language he can shock us into making that change to our lives that is most needed. It can be said that the pearl of great wealth in our parable today is the very person of Jesus himself. In the context of our world many are in need of seeking out the person of Jesus and reforming their relationship with him. The division of the weeds and the wheat, or the separation of the good catch from the poor, make uncomfortable reading. They are however the words of a friend seeking to put us back on the right path.

In the first reading Solomon asks only for wisdom from his Lord. It is the wisdom of Solomon that we too need in our pursuit of our relationship with

Christ. Are we willing to make the right choices to follow Jesus way, to live as he wants us to live? These are our choices of faith.

Solomon prayed for wisdom. It takes wisdom to combat the challenges of life. It takes wisdom to be a good parent, a good husband, a good wife, a good priest, a good person. It takes wisdom to discern what needs to be brought into the present and what needs to be left in the past. Such discernment is part of the armoury of the disciple as Jesus also tells us today in the Gospel, but that needs to be for another time.

My blessing to you all

Canon John