**God is Always Patient with His Creatures**

*Fr Louis Fowóyò̩*

God created 24 hours in a day. We human beings spend half of it doing unproductive things, while the devil wishes it were 25 hours in a day so that he could out smart God.

* The devil always wants to upturn what God has done well. He is filled with rage for the goodness of God.
* That is why Fulton J. Sheen said that; “God has the day, but Satan has the hour.”
* Satan thinks that he is free to act, smarter than God, and able to thwart God's plan. That is why he operates when no one can see him. He comes to us when we are most vulnerable – moments of loneliness, hunger, creating anxiety and fears.
* “The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off.”
* Weeds in some Bible translation is called DARNELL or TARES. This plant looks almost like wheat. So much so that it is called “evil twin” or “mimic weed”. It also germinates where wheat is planted. At the infancy, you may not know the difference between the two plants. It is only when they are matured that they can be easily separated one from another.
* While it is nutritious to consume wheat, it is poisonous to eat weed (Darnell or Tares). It is said that if this weed is consumed, it can make one drowsy, dizzy, unsteady and woozy.
* Like the evil one, this weed, takes advantage of human beings without bending to our will.
* This is the plan of the evil one to make us unproductive and seemingly useless beyond salvage by God.

Gospel: Matthew 13: 24-43; opens with the parable of the wheat and the weed. This is very significant to let us know that because God created all, He always give room for salvation for all.

* God knows the works of the evil one and He is never in a rush but rather takes His time. There is no time that evil can conquer good.
* “An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning, but gather the wheat into my barn.”
* The Lord is wary about the work of the enemy, but He is also careful not to hastily destroys His own work.
* The other two parables of Jesus, of the mustard seed and the yeast, are indication of the robust life that we will enjoy with the Lord at the end time. The present pain notwithstanding, the reward of waiting cannot be quantified.
* We live in an imperfect world. The devil is more clever than us. He ‘sugar coats’ evil to look like good. Sometimes we cannot tell good from evil until we see the fruit.
* This parable is an important reminder to continue to produce good fruit, Jesus promises hope for the future. The harvest is secure.

1st Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; it is that God who is the Master of all is always lenient to all. He does not treat us according to our offences and continue to give opportunity for repentance.

* “For Your might is the source of justice; Your mastery over all things makes You lenient to all. Though You are master of might, You judge with clemency, and with much lenience You govern us, for power, whenever You will, attends You.”
* In trust, God permits repentance for our sin.