



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

2023

July 30, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 109

Gospel Mt 13:44-52

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full, they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus, it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. "Do you understand all these things?" They answered, "Yes." And he replied, "Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old. "



Spiritual Reflection: Growing up, my mother came home one day and started placing "Mr. Yuck" stickers on different items in our home. She had gotten Mr. Yuck from the Poison Center and explained to us that anything she put this sticker on was not something good to eat. In the same way Jesus is informing us that not everything we find in the Church is healthy for us. For example, political rivalries within the Church.

Spiritual Questions:

1. What are some things in the Church that we need to get rid of?
2. What are some things in the Church that we need to keep?
3. How do you determine what is helpful and what is not?
4. Who helps you make these decisions?
5. What are you doing to make the Church a better place