

Some of the most commonly occurring questions are sparked by today's Gospel. How come we have so much evil in the world? Why do we experience pain and suffering? Why so much unfairness? Why do some go through so much in our world? Good, honest questions that cry out to heaven and earth for an answer.

Basically, how can a good God allow this to happen?

I sometimes think when I see the world of today, that it is certainly not run on the lines that God wants. Back on the First Sunday of Lent, we read that one temptation the Devil put to Jesus was to offer him power over the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him. The question strikes me — how can the devil offer something (the world in this case) if it's not in his personal gift to give? Maybe today the Devil doesn't plant bombs in the fields of the world — but humans do. He plants different kinds of 'weeds'. He doesn't break in — he blends in. He shows up in disguise, sowing confusion, division and deceit — right in the middle of life and living.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

After the Consecration

The mystery of faith.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.



We tend to want a quick fix to things. The modern age seeks quick reaction rather than considered response. That is often very dangerous and anyone in online groups will testify to experiencing people posting sharp comments, misunderstandings, contributors jumping to conclusions, words typed too quickly and without kindness. But what are we to do with both good and bad growing or co-existing? The advice is to wait till harvest — that all will be well.

I have rarely found that a person is all good or all bad. Sometimes people grow at different stages. We have a saying that 'when the

student is ready — they will learn'. What may appear to be a weed could actually be a dormant wheat seed. Never despair — the Gardener certainly does not.

So, stay watchful; discern wisely. Remember that good and evil do co-exist. God is patient but God is just. We are all accountable for our actions in the end. The message is hopeful. God is not finished with us. Growth takes time. Grace works slowly. Let us trust the Gardener.

— Tom Cox



Reflection

How can I encourage someone dear to me to see better what is good in them?



Lesson

God does not love me because I am perfect. God loves me because God is perfect.



Prayer

Lord, strengthen our spirit when we are slow and temper our zeal when we are rash, that in your own good time you may produce in us a rich harvest.

THE COMMUNION RITE

Behold the Lamb of God, ...
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon (Ps 110:4-5)

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

Prayer after Communion

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.