

Weekly Bible Readings from the Catholic Children's Bible: Week of July 19

First reading from the book of Wisdom- 12: 13, 16 – 19

All things are under your care, and there is no other god to whom you must justify your decisions. Your strength is the source of justice. You can show mercy to everyone, because you are the Lord of all. You show your strength when people doubt that your power is perfect, and you punish anyone who knows your power but dares to ignore it. Even though you have absolute power, you are a merciful judge. You could take action against us whenever you like, but instead, you rule us with great patience. By the things you have done you have taught your people that a person who is righteous must also be kind. You have given your people abundant hope by allowing them to repent of their sins.

Responsorial Psalm 86: 1-2, 3-5, 11-13,

Listen to me, Lord, and answer me, for I am helpless and weak. Save me from death, because I am loyal to you; save me, for I am your servant and I trust you.

You are my God, so be merciful to me; I pray to you all day long. You are good to us and forgiving, full of love for all who pray to you.

Teach me, Lord, what you want me to do and I will obey you faithfully; teach me to serve you with completed devotion. I will praise you with all my heart, O Lord my God; I will proclaim your greatness forever. How great is your constant love for me.

You, O Lord, are a merciful and loving God, always patient, always kind and faithful. Turn to me and have mercy on me; strengthen me and save me, because I serve you just as my mother did. Show me proof of your goodness, Lord; those who hate me will be ashamed when they see that you have given me comfort and help.

Second Reading from St. Paul to the Romans – 8: 26-27

In the same way the Spirit also comes to help us, weak as we are. For we do not know how we ought to pray; the Spirit himself pleads with God for us in groans that words cannot express. And God, who sees into our hearts, knows what the thought of the Spirit is; because the Spirit pleads with God on behalf of his people and in accordance with his will.

The Gospel of the Lord: Matthew 13: 24 -30, 36-43 (this is a shorter version for the children, the complete reading is Matthew 13: 24 – 43)

The Parable of the Weeds: Jesus told them another parable: The Kingdom of heaven is like this; A man sowed good seed in his field. One night, when everyone was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. When the plants grew and the heads of grain began to form, the weeds showed up. The man's servants came to him and said, "Sir, it was good seed you sowed in your field; where did the weeds come from?" "It was some enemy who did this," he answered. "Do you want us to go and pull up the weeds?" they

asked him. “No, he answered, because as you gather the weeds you might pull up some of the wheat along with them. Let the wheat and the weeds both grow together until harvest. Then I will tell the harvest workers to pull up the weeds first, tie them in bundles and burn them, and then to gather in the wheat and put it in my barn. “

When Jesus had left the crowd and gone indoors, his disciples came to him and said, “Tell us what the parable about the weeds in the field means.” Jesus answered,

JESUS EXPLAINS THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS

“The man who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world; the good seed is the people who belong to the Kingdom; the weeds are the people who belong to the Evil One; and the enemy who sowed the weeds is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvest workers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered up and burned in the fire, so the same thing will happen at the end of the age: the Son of man will send out his angels to gather up out of his Kingdom all those who cause people to sin and all others who do evil things, and they will throw them into the fiery furnace, where they will cry and gnash their teeth. Then GOD’s people will shine like the sun in their Father’s Kingdom. Listen, then, if you have ears!