



Things to Ponder

- [About the Author](#)
- [Order](#)
- [About the Book](#)
- [Reviews](#)
- [Readers' Comments](#)
- [News & Events](#)
- [A Prayer for the Day](#)
- [Things To Shout Out!](#)
- [Things to Ponder](#)
- [My Favorite Quotes](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Home](#)

Reflections – Gospel of Matthew 13:24-43

Introduction: Small Beginnings

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. All three parables are commonplace experiences, but the much longer first parable (good seed and weeds) alerts us to the two-fold reality of this in-coming Community. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven can be found in this world, but the fruition, however, will not be realized until the final judgment. So, there is a tension here between "now" and the "coming age," between good and evil. And you and I live within this often ambiguous and hard-to-explain lived-reality where we are all mixed together: good seed and weeds. Tough place to be!

And in this "in-between-place," any efforts on our part to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, the Creator, in the final judgment will distinguish the good seed from the weeds. We leave it all in God's hands. Who are we to judge? We are simply called to be good seed and trust that the forces of good can withstand the forces of evil (weeds). I think it all comes down to patience – and trust that this most experienced of gardeners, the Lord of Creation, has the matter well in hand. God is really in charge!

The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that will result from the small beginnings of the Kingdom of God. Just as a mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds—will become a large bush so, too, God will bring His Kingdom to full bloom. And as a small amount of yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread so, too, God will bring about the expansion of His kingdom. In both these parables, the image is of the super abundance that God brings out of even the smallest of signs of the Kingdom. Small is good!

In these parables, you and I find words of comfort, for our God can work wonders from even the smallest beginnings. We remember how Jesus began small—with only twelve disciples—and look where we have come over the past 2,000 years. We are a global Church that spans all cultures, races, languages. Likewise, this same Christ—risen and glorious—uses our "smallness" —our limited talents, even our brokenness—to do amazing things!

The basic message is the same. There is a frustrating process of slow growth within our world family—and even within ourselves—which will include ups and downs. You and I are called to be patient, for growth and future progress is often painfully slow. But growth will take place – small and sturdy!

And two underlining questions remain for us to ponder this weekend. How can I deal with imperfections (weeds) in myself, with others, with our world family? And can I live with

limitations in myself, in others, and in our broken world today?

I would invite you to take time to read and ponder the words from the Gospel of Matthew 13:24-43.

What word or words caught your attention?

What in this passage comforted you?

What in this passage challenged you?

Further Questions and Reflections:

Sometimes we may think that perfection is acquired by becoming aware of our faults and working to root these out. However, when we become more familiar with Jesus' attitude to the limited and sinful side of ourselves (our "smallness"), we learn to accept our limited and sinful self just as Jesus did with Zacchaeus (Luke 19). We allow Jesus in so He can work wonders in our lives. We give Him space. The early Christians felt very tiny in a vast world of non-belief. We today can also feel threatened or irrelevant – small and insignificant. But the life-cycle of the smallest of seeds can stretch our imagination. After 50 years, where is St. Patrick's Parish?

Exercise: Look back on events in your life that seemed barren or weedy at that time – and see now where God was really at work. Any surprises?

Deacon David

Deacon David Suley
St. Patrick Catholic Church
Rockville, Maryland

Published with Permission

Website Technology ©2007 [American Author](#).

A division of [Cevado Technologies](#). All rights reserved. [Privacy Policy](#)

