

## *Lent 2010*



### **Lenten Meditation # 5 -(Fourth Sunday in Lent)**

#### **LENTEN GARDENS "THE GOOD AND THE BAD"**

As one who treasured the wonders of God's creation, Jesus told a story that reflects the nature of life. A man planted wheat, good seed -did everything right -but he had an enemy who wished him harm. The enemy came and planted weeds amidst the wheat. Both grain and weeds grew together and soon the man's servants discovered what had happened. They might have tried to pull the weeds out, but the landowner stopped them, for fear that the whole crop might be lost. (See Matthew 13:24-30)

Fortunately, most of us do not have this kind of enemy. Or do we? In the process of trying to make our lives all that they can be, we run into a lot of opposition. It comes in the evils and shallow values that are all around us, greed and self-seeking, even natural problems like sickness and danger. The tares (weeds) of scripture were poisonous grasses that looked a lot like grain as they were growing, but were easily distinguished when fully grown. Money, social position and power look good and are enticing, but we lose out, when they become goals in themselves and lure us away *from* life's lasting treasures.

What do we do, if and when we discover that some of these tares threaten to take over our lives? Whether they are simply life's natural problems like illness or are more virulent societal evils like greed, dishonesty or gossip, how do we live creatively? Those things that we are able to weed out surely should go. However, this parable warns us against spending our time fretting about them and dealing only with the weeds.

We need to use our time and major efforts for cultivating what is good. All of us come to realize that life is not perfect. We are not in the Garden of Eden. But resist the serpent of skepticism, which threatens to take away the good that we have. Reap the good things that still grow in our lives, showing the evil and the bad that they cannot dominate us.

