

## LOCKDOWN DAY 116 – 20 JULY 2020

Molweni dear family and friends of False Bay Diocese,

Scripture: Matthew 13:24-43    Hymn: *Great is thy faithfulness*

As the Bishop of the Diocese, I thank those who reached out to destitute families on Mandela Day by supplying them with food parcels. This is great and wonderful, especially during these difficult and trying times of the coronavirus.

Happy new day! Happy new week! God has got the whole world in His hands. God is real, alive, present and our anchor. Decision making in personal and public life is so difficult during Covid-time. We pray particularly for all the stake holders who have the task of discerning what the best way forward is regarding our schools.

I offer some thoughts alongside those received from your clergy yesterday.

The world in which we live is such a strange mix of good and evil. We experience the highest heroism and also the deepest depravity. We find such goodness and generosity and also such meanness and miserliness. There are both the weeds as well as the wheat! Even in our own personal lives, we must admit this strange mix of good and evil. In the best of us there is some evil and in the worst of us there is some good.

But where does the good and evil come from? The good comes from God who is the source of goodness. The evil does not come from God. The evil one goes around stealthily sowing seeds of discord, division, disharmony and disunity. The evil one deceives us, divides us, discourages us and then denounces us. We need to be patient with others and patient with ourselves.

The gospel today is a powerful text. God has planted good seed. We are created in the image and likeness of God. The world reflects the beauty and the greatness of God and yet we see the weeds and they are many. The weeds are not planted by God but by the evil one.

Those weeds are the weeds of doubt, unbelief, unfaith, self-sufficiency, weeds of trying to live our lives without God. Unfortunately that weed has its stranglehold on the minds of many people and yet Jesus tells us in the gospel that he will not send the reapers in to pick up the weeds, to uproot the weeds, in case the wheat is damaged. In other words, somehow in the providence of God the wheat reveals the glory of God despite the weeds and that is a very comforting thought.

The freedom to choose God or not choose God is what makes us into human beings and God respects that so greatly that he allows the weeds to grow among the wheat.

This mystery of God's providence is beyond us. We will never understand this. At the end of time when we are gathered into the barns of God; when God takes the failings of human history and our own individual sinfulness and conquers all this with God's love; then we will understand the greatness and beauty of God; Then we will understand that the mind of God is beyond all human comprehension and despite difficulties of life, God's providence has been guiding all of us on the pathway to eternity. Give thanks to God the Father who guides us and leads us on the pathways of freedom.

While on earth, let us sow good. That is the only harvest we can carry with us when we cross time and enter into eternity.

God willing, I will continue tomorrow with a reflection on this parable.

Today, please **reach out** to anyone who you regard as a **future leader**.

**We pray** for the Church, that in her ministry of the word and service she may continue to promote the good and weed out the evil. **We pray** for the world, so blessed with good and yet burdened with evil, that its leaders may strive to foster all that helps the human community. **We pray** for ourselves, that we may accept that there is good in the worst of us and evil in the best of us. **We pray** for our young people, who are present both in the world and the church, that they may be guided and encouraged as they launch out on

uncharted routes as a result of Covid-19. We pray for our dear departed ones, that they may be granted the bliss of beholding God face to face in heaven. Heavenly Parent, deepen our understanding of your goodness and mercy and when we do not know how to pray, may your Spirit guide and assist us. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

I am, Because we Are, Because God is ... Opening hearts to heal God's world. *Have a blessed week Beloved child of God.*