

**Worship Service
March 17th, 2019**

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|--------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| *Worship Song | Together with Band | |
| Opening Prayer | Presider | |
| Bible Reading | Matthew 13:24-30 | Haroon Wilson |
| Prayer | Nestor Dumalo | |
| Announcement | Rosanna Bokhari | |
| Recognition of Keeping Sabbath | Senior Pastor (<i>The Family of Pierot</i>) | |
| Offering Prayer..... | Presider | |
| Offering | Together (<i>Saxophone</i> <i>Chicago Edlers' Choir</i>) | |
| Special Song | Jane Gonzalez | |
| Message | The Parable of the Weeds Timothy Hong | |
| Prayer of Blessing | Presider | |

Today's Sermon Outline

The Parable of the Weeds
Matthew 13:24-30

See God's goodness in this evil world

There are some people who are pessimistic of everything in this world. They think that this world is full of evil and the evil is overpowering the good. So they conclude that this world has no hope. There may be others who are perfectionists. They pursue and demand perfect status in their lives, and in the lives of others. They always see something imperfect and something wrong. And they easily get upset and discouraged.

But in this parable, Jesus teaches us to see things differently. Jesus teaches that the existence of evil does not mean that this world is hopeless. Every field has not only wheat but also weeds which are similar to the wheat but which are counterfeits. Even the church will not be immune to this mixture. There are sinners in the church. We all may fail from time to time. But Jesus still loves the church. There is cleansing power in the church-the blood of Christ, and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit which can turn weed-like hearts into wheat-like hearts. So, we should not give up hope in God's goodness although we are imperfect and still sin from time to time (1 Cor. 1:8-9).

Be patient in dealing with evil

We need discernment to distinguish good from evil. We have to fight the good fight against evil and against sin. But we should not be in a hurry in dealing with sinners. We should be very patient and gentle in dealing with the evil among the good. Why? Because we may hurt the good while we try to take out the evil. There may be people who have a seed of wheat in their hearts, but simply are too weak to carry out the growth of the seed. There may be some believers, who really believe in God and in Jesus, but who are immature and make mistakes and fall into sin more than others. So if we judge such people just as we see them now, we may discourage them and so they may give up on having fellowship with God's people. While we are judging evil of others by our own understanding, it may not be evil in the eyes of God who sees the hidden motive and hidden background of man's every behavior. We are not God. We're not quite as good at discernment as Jesus is. Therefore, we must be patient with the evil of others.

Honor God's authority on the final judgement

God allows us to discern good from evil, but God does not give us the authority to bring final judgement on the evil. That authority belongs only to God. So, if we try to bring final judgement on evil, we will violate God's authority. God tolerates the weeds, because in the end, some who appeared to be evil will become good, and some who appeared to be good will be revealed as evil. We can't always tell who is who. We do not know for sure how a person's life, either good or evil, will change or end. God is waiting and desiring the salvation of all (2 Peter 3:9)!

So, whenever we struggle with the problem of evil in our lives, we must learn to put our faith in God and be patient as we wait for God to accomplish His plan. Trust that God knows every injustice. Trust that God will surely judge all evil and bring justice (2 Thessalonians 1:6-7). Put the matter of vengeance into God's hand. Then, God's peace will fill your heart. You will be able to be optimistic and peaceful although people around you are imperfect, and although you are imperfect.

Applications

1. How can you develop an attitude of seeing something good even in a world that seems to be filled with evil and sinful people?
2. Why do you have to be patient in dealing with evil and how can you be patient?
3. The Bible promises that God will surely judge all evil and bring justice in the end (2 Thessalonians 1:6-7). How does this promise help you live a peaceful and optimistic life although you are living in a unjust world, and among imperfect and sinful people?

Announcements

Welcome New Comers and Visitors

We welcome all new comers and visitors to our worship service today. Please join us for our lunch fellowship which will be held in the fellowship hall right after the service.

Lunch Preparation

This week – Chicago Elders Choir **Next week** – African Group

*Today's fellowship cleaning turn is Filipino Group (Lyle Atonson).

Prayer Request

* Praise the Lord for a new job - Ian Tan has got a job at a company in Northbrook

* For traveling mercies- Gil Henderson is in Daytona, Florida spending time with his wife, Donna.

Special Thanks

To the Chicago Elders Choir who have come to joined us in our worship service today and provide food for our lunch fellowship.

Groups for Fellowship Hall Cleaning on Sundays (Mar/2019)

| Date | Group | Leader |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Mar 3 | College and Youth Group | Moses Sanchez |
| Mar 10 | Spanish Group | Analís Gomez Garcia |
| Mar 17 | Filipino Group | Lyle Atonson |
| Mar 24 | African Group | John Ayetty |
| Mar 31 | Pakistan & Korean Group | Haroon Wilson |

Ushers of the Month

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|------------------------|---|
| Offering Ushers | GiGi Alberto, Charles Gaines, Samantha Gaines, Lyle Atonson |
| Welcome Ushers | Analís Garcia, Erlinda Morales, Patricia Grass |

Last Week's Offering

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|---------------------|---|
| Tithe | Rene & Ltynn Corachea//Rose & Nestor Dumlao//Eloisa Flores//Charles & Samantha Gaines//Lydia Hong//Sung Hee Kweon??Samuel Lebbie//Alex & Analís Lucas Garcia//Jasmine Luna//Erlinda Morales//Noiralith Ortega//Robert Bob Stewarts//Reyna Rosales |
| Lord's Day | John & Branda Ayetty//Eryln Balano//Mercedes Asparo//Eryn Corachea//Eloisa Flores//Timothy Hong//Mary Herrera//Alex & Analís Lucas Garcia//Ildevert & Denise Mbougou//Kathryn Rose//Rodriguez//Victoria Aberi |
| Thanksgiving | Rafael Gil//Cole Gaines |
| Mission | Eryln Balano//Byung, Sung & Brian Cheon//Rene & Lynn Corachea//Rose & Nestor Dumlao//Diana B. Lamier//Robert Bob Stewarts//Yang Yung |

Weekly Bible Reading Chart

| Day/date | Old Testament | Check | New Testament | Check |
|-------------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| Mon 3-17-19 | Joshua 9 | | Mark 11:12-19 | |
| Tue 3-18-19 | Joshua 10-11 | | Mark 11:20-26 | |
| Wed 3-19-19 | Joshua 12-19 | | Mark 1:27-33 | |
| Thu 3-20-19 | Joshua 20-23 | | Mark 12:1-12 | |
| Fri 3-21-19 | Joshua 24 | | Mark 12:13-17 | |
| Sat 3-22-19 | Judges 1-3 | | Mark 12:18-27 | |
| Sun 3-23-19 | Judges 4-7 | | Mark 12:28-44 | |

ESF International Church

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Worship Services:

Sunday Main Service 11:30 AM

Prayer Services

Sundays 9:30 AM - Room 106

Bible Study

Shepherd Group – Wednesday 8:00 PM

Saturday 10:30 AM

Cell Groups

Monday- Friday according to arrangement of each cell

College Student Ministry

Thursday 9:45 PM at Skype

Youth Ministry

Sunday – 1:30 PM

Children's Ministry

Sunday school- Sunday 11:30 AM

ESF Band Practice

Sunday 9:30 AM & 1:30 PM

Missionaries

Eva Sanchez – Campus ministry in Peru

Miguelina Martinez – Campus ministry in Dominican Republic

Suri Kumar – Campus ministry and Hindu ministry in India

Jordan Custorio – Campus ministry in the Philippines

Paul Uzoma – Campus ministry in Benin, Africa

Rahab Lee – Campus ministry in Asia

Angelito Garcia – Campus ministry in Ukraine

Raul Navarro – Student ministry in Cuba

Ministers and Staff

Senior Pastor – Timothy Hong (773-802-1112)

Administration– Samuel Lebbie (312-951-3552)

Assistant Preaching Pastor – Kurt Schwartz (224-522-9098)

Campus Ministry – Richard Shaffer (808-201-4224)