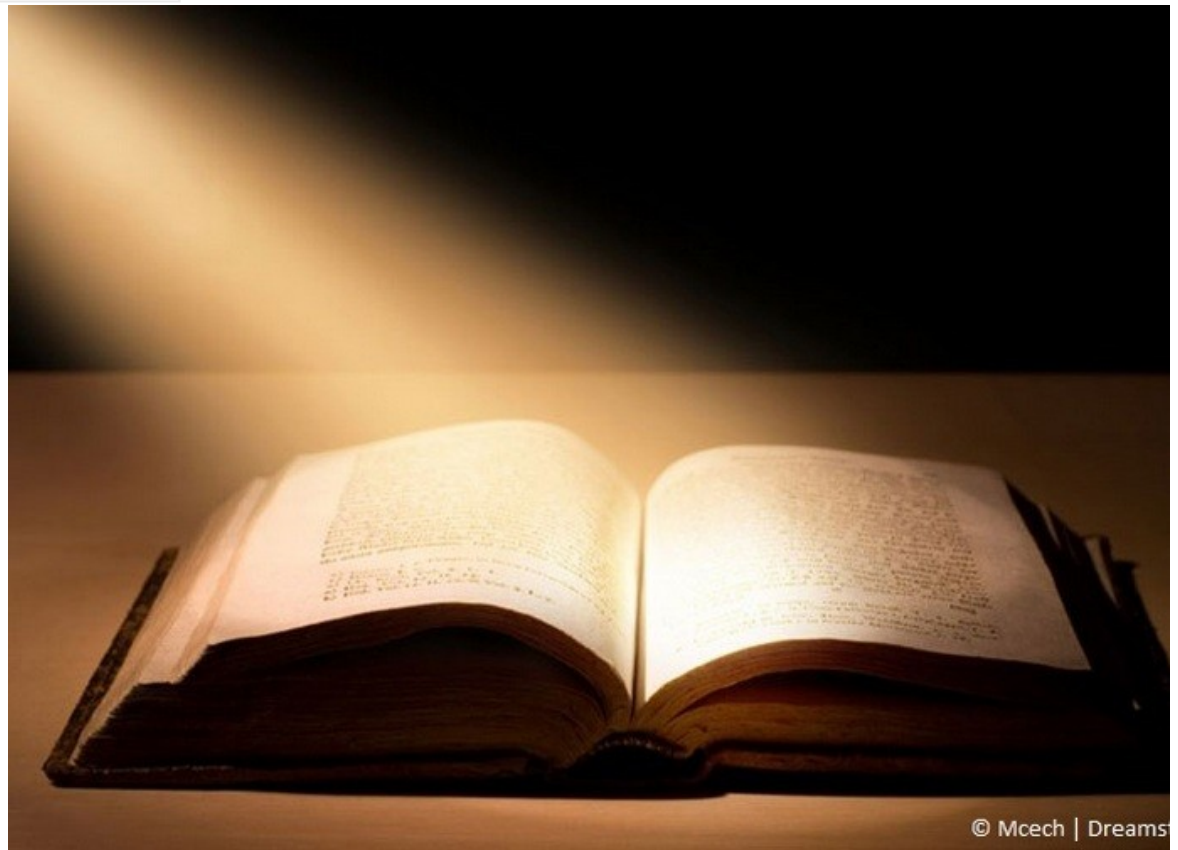


GOSPEL PEARLS

It could cost us dearly

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Jesus dismissed the crowds and went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the Kingdom. The weeds are the children of the Evil One, and the enemy who sows them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his Kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the

fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear.” (Mt 13, 36-43)

The parable of the weeds serves to teach us that earthly life is a merciful test to which God subjects us. As long as you are alive, conversion is always possible, even if, as times pass, it becomes gradually more difficult because previous choices affect us, both for good and, unfortunately, for evil. Jesus throughout our earthly life calls us to change our life, but after death we will be judged according to our actions and without false alibis. Never forget: what you do today affects you tomorrow and could cost you dearly.