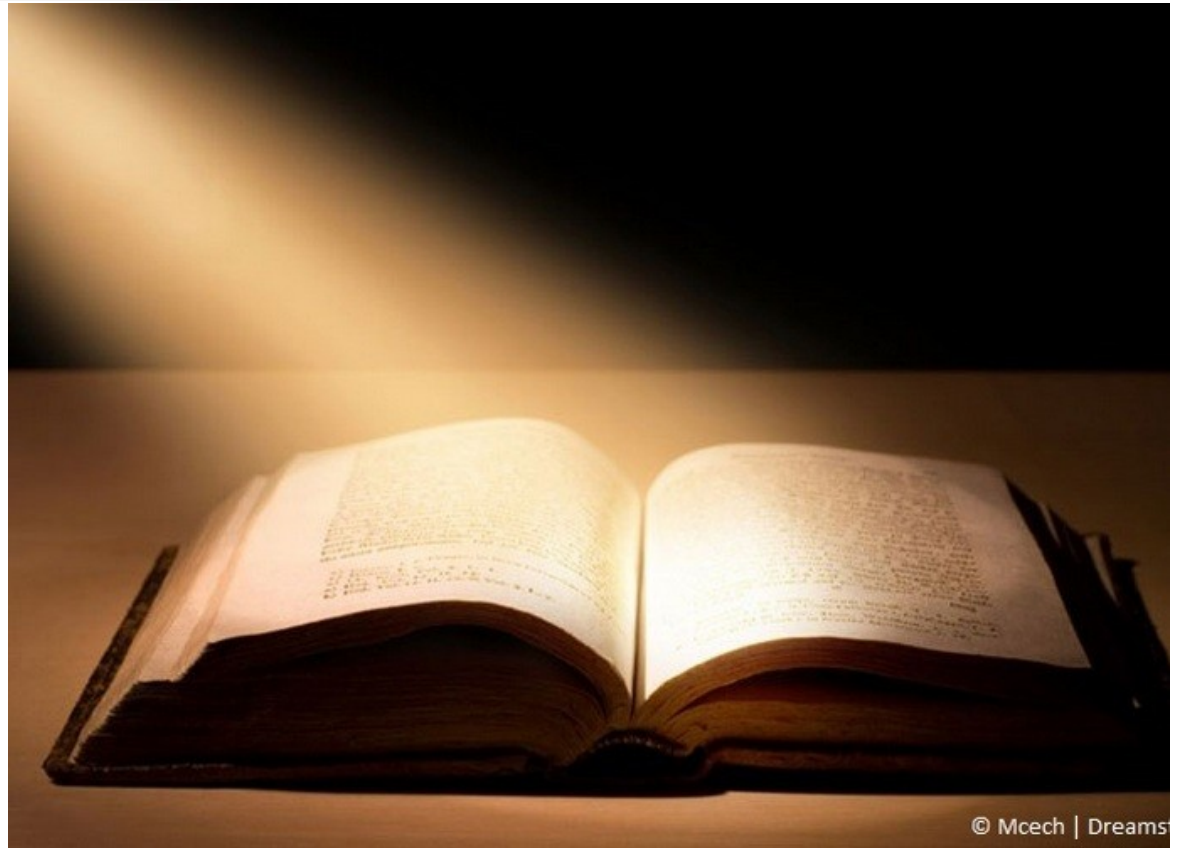


GOSPEL PEARLS

Testify to the truth

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Jesus proposed a parable to the crowds. "The Kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds

you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn." (Mt 13, 24-30)

As in the case of wheat and weeds, true disciples are distinguished from wolves dressed as lambs only when the fruit ripens. It is not enough to call oneself Christians to be Christian, but it is necessary to obey the will of Jesus, even when this seems to go against our interests. The announcement of the disciples is not credible, if their life contradicts it. Ask yourself if you have been Christian in every situation this week.