

116. The Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)

Prayer: Almighty Lord, Your word says You hate sin and evil. But through Jesus Christ, You love us, You give us faith, and You are patient. Please continue to be patient until time is finished and Your kingdom is full. Bless our study of Your word, so we can always be faithful to You and continue growing in Your kingdom. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

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Matthew 13:24-26. Jesus told the people another story with a hidden meaning. Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who had a field, and he planted good wheat seed in his field. At night, while everyone slept, his enemy came and planted weeds with the wheat. Then the enemy left. Later, the wheat sprouted and the heads of grain began growing. At that time, the weeds also started growing."

- What is the owner's goal? What does he want?
- What is the enemy's goal? What does he want?

Matthew 13:27-30. "The owner had servants. The servants came to him and said, 'Sir, you planted good seed, right? Where are the weeds from?' The owner answered, 'An enemy planted the weeds.' The servants asked, 'Do you want us to pull the weeds out?' He answered, 'No. When you pull the weeds, you might accidentally pull up wheat also. Let the wheat and weeds grow together until harvest time. I will explain to the people harvesting. First, gather the weeds, tie them up and burn them. Then gather the wheat and put it in my barn.'"

- What was the owner's problem?
- How did the servants want to solve the problem? Why did the owner say "no"?
- What did the owner say they should do about the problem?

Matthew 13:36-39. Then Jesus left the crowd of people and went into the house. His disciples asked Him, “Explain the story about the weeds in the field.” Jesus said, “The Son of Man is the one who planted the good seed. The field is the world. The good seed means the people who belong to God’s kingdom. The weeds means the people who belong to the devil’s kingdom. The devil is the enemy in the story. The harvest means the end of time, and the harvesters are the angels.”

- What did Jesus tell a story about? It wasn’t about planting a field. The story was really about...
- Who owned the field? Who was His enemy? Who are we in the story?

Matthew 13:40-43. Jesus said, “In the story, the weeds got pulled up and burned. At the end of the world, that will happen the same. The Son of Man will send out His angels. They will pull out every person who does evil and everything that causes sin. The angels will throw all those wicked people and things into the fiery furnace. People will cry and mourn there. Then the righteous people will live in their Father’s kingdom, and they will shine like the sun. Pay attention to the story!”

- What will happen to the weeds (the wicked people) at the end of the world?
- What will happen to the people who belong to God’s kingdom?
- Sometimes people say God should fix problems on earth now. They say God should not wait. Why does God wait?
- What does that mean for you? How important are you to God?