

Gospel of Matthew “Wheat and Weeds”
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
May 28, 2023

Matthew 13:24-30

24 He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, 25 but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. 27 And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ 28 He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ 29 But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

Matthew 13:36-43

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” 37 He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, 42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

Good and evil. Both are true.

The enemy sows confusion in the midst of good work.

Is Jesus advocating passivity?

Luke 9:54-55

54 And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” 55 But he turned and rebuked them. 56 And they went on to another village.

We can be preoccupied with weeds rather than tending the wheat.

We can be patient because of what’s next.

Matthew 13:41-43

41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, 42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

We live with heartache and with real hope.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- Can you give examples of how our culture struggles to define right and wrong, good and evil? What happens when the boundary lines of good and evil get blurred?
- When the workers in the parable seek to get rid of the weeds, Jesus says to let both the wheat and weeds grow. Do you think this answer surprised the workers? Does it surprise you? Why?
- Why does Jesus say to let them both grow? How might we go out into the world and harm the wheat when addressing the weeds?
- When is our manner, not our Christian message, a concern?
- How can the final outcome of the harvest produce hope in us now?
- How can the final outcome help us be honest about the world and even our sin?
- How can your life group help you apply this teaching your life this week?