

PARABLES: A culturally relevant story “cast alongside” a truth in order to illustrate that truth

WHY PARABLES: Spiritual truths requiring spiritual discernment by the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:12-14)

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN: Where God rules and reigns (already and not yet)

- Are you in the Kingdom of Heaven? (John 1:12-13, John 3:1-21, Titus 3:3-7)

THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS AND WHEAT

Matthew 13:24-30 (ESV) ²⁴He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And 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?' ²⁸He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let 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."'

BREAKING DOWN WEEDS AND WHEAT - MATTHEW 13

[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,

- A man = Jesus (Matthew 13:37)
- In His field = world (Matthew 13:38)
- Sowed good seed = children of the kingdom (1 John 3:9-10)

[25] but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.

- His men were sleeping (Mark 4:27)
- His enemy = adversary and accuser of the brethren (1 Peter 5:8)
- Sowed weeds among the wheat = planted and grew from there (1 Corinthians 5:9-10)
- His enemy went away = limited (Job 1:12)

[26] So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.

- The “wheat” sprouted grain proving it was wheat = bearing good fruit (Galatians 5:22-23)
- The “weeds” became evident over time. (Galatians 5:19-21)

[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?'

- Servant of the Master (Luke 17:7-10)
- “Didn’t you plant good seed, God?!” = questioning the work of the Sower
- “How, then, did this horrible, unfair, and unjust thing happen?!” = trying to reconcile evil and God’s goodness
- “If you were truly good, then _____ would not have happened!” = Many keep themselves out of the kingdom of heaven by seeing their tragedies through only their eyes.

THE WEEDS AND WHEAT EXPLAINED

Matthew 13:37-43 (ESV) ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

[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?'

- God's perspective: It wasn't Me; you have an enemy. (John 10:10)
 - Servant's solution: Let's go fix it now! Sure seems like the natural thing to do.
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[29] But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them.'

- God's perspective: If we remove all the wicked now, we will lose some children of the Kingdom, too.
 - Remove evil King Manasseh (2 Chronicles 33:1-9) = No great King Josiah (2 Chronicles 34:1-7)
 - God is not going to stop short of saving all who will call on Him. (2 Peter 2:8-9)
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[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."

- God's solution: Allow them to both experience one another; faith sprouts/grows in hard times.
 - God's solution: Angels will come at the right time to clean house.
 - God's solution: Complete justice in the end for the unrepentant wicked—hell.
 - God's solution: The righteous will shine like the sun with God forever in Heaven. (Revelation 21)
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KNOW IT:

- Know God's heart is for *all* people. (John 3:16)
- Know your enemy and his schemes. (2 Corinthians 2:11)
- God will work all things out in the end (see Romans 8:28), and He's the only One capable of the task. Trust Him.

FEEL IT:

- God is well acquainted with pain and suffering. You have a good friend in Him. (Hebrews 4:14-16 & John 15:15)
- God's heart is for *none* to be lost. (2 Peter 3:9)
- Hurt for those separate from the Father. (Matthew 23:37 & Luke 15:11-32)

DO IT:

- Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matthew 5:44-45)
- Be sober and alert; not all who look like wheat are wheat. (Galatians 2:4-5 & 2 Peter 2:1-3)
- Go and proclaim the goodness of God to others. Know God is with you in carrying out His Kingdom business!

Passages to prepare for next week: Matthew 12:24-30; Mark 3:23-27; Luke 11:14-23