

## Leave the Weeds

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*Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. 27 "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' 28 "An enemy did this," he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' 29 "No," he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'" (Matthew 13:24-30).*

### 1. Weeding in the Parsonage

Christine has spent a lot of time weeding the lawn at the parsonage since we returned from California. I thought it might take a brief amount of time, but weeding ended up taking a lot of time. When I asked Christine about it, she said there were a lot more weeds than I thought. Weeding is one of those jobs that never end.

### 2. The Parable of the Weeds

In Matthew chapter 13, there are two parables about sowing seeds. The parable of the sower talks about sowing seeds on different types of ground. The parable of the weeds talks about two different sowers. Jesus says, a farmer sowed good seed. While he is sleeping, an enemy comes at night and sows weeds. At first, nobody is aware of what has happened.

But as the seeds begin to sprout and grow, the servants of the owner notice that the wheat and the weeds are growing together. The servants of the owner come and ask, "**Do you want us to go and pull the weeds up?**" The owner tells them to let the wheat and the weeds grow together until the harvest. Why does the owner not want his servants to pull up the weeds? It is because pulling the weeds might impact the wheat as well. At the harvest time, the harvesters would collect and burn the weeds. Then the harvesters would gather the wheat into the owner's barn (13:28-30).

### 3. Who are the Weeds?

In this parable of the weeds, Jesus is telling his disciples about how God deals with the people in the world. Who are wheat and the weeds? Verse 38 tells us that the wheat is the children of God and the weeds are the children of the evil one. Does this mean that all Christians are the wheat and nonbelievers

are the weeds? Among Christians there are many different believers who have different understanding and political views. As I was preparing the message for today's worship service, I realized that those who are different from me might think that they are wheat and I am a weed. Do you think you are wheat or the weeds?

#### 4. Our Current Situations

In our current state, we live in a time of global health concerns and a divided society. We often feel surrounded by the weeds all around us. Like the servants of the owner, we might want to remove the weeds right away. Do we think the world should be divided between wheat and the weeds and get rid of the weeds as soon as possible? Or do we want to have the common good for all people and live in harmony? If we ask the Lord as the servants did, **“Do we want us to go and pull the weeds up?”** What would our Lord say to us? Our Lord would say, **“leave the weeds;” “let them grow together with wheat until the harvest.”** This parable tells us that we are called to grow together with the weeds and let the Lord judge in His time.

#### 5. Conclusion

This parable teaches us that the children of God live together with the children of the evil one in the world. Often, we can feel tempted to divide ourselves from other people. But our passage reminds us that God wants us to grow with others. Our owner knows what is happening in the world. And the owner, God, has a plan to address the problems in His time. We may not always be happy with God's decisions. But we know that God's decisions are ultimately the best for all of us.

#### 6. Application

Where are those we may not like from? Can we say that different skin colors, different languages, different cultures, different beliefs, different ideas are God's creation? If God created them including the weeds, we should be grateful for their differences. If we believe everything is from God, we must be grateful for every difference. Although other people are quite different from us in many ways, if every human being is created in the image of God, we should be grateful for their lives living around us.

Today's parable assures us that the landowner asks his servants to leave the weeds and let them grow with wheat. The farmer says that for the sake of wheat not for the sake of the weeds. God knows what the best for us is. If we believe that God knows what the best for us is, we should be grateful for every difference. I am not saying to “stop weeding.” But Romans 12:16 says, **“Live in harmony with one another.”** I pray that we may seek God's harmony and grow together with others for God's Kingdom until God's time of harvest. Amen.