

OPEN

When you see a weed in the yard, are you more likely to pull it immediately or tell yourself it adds character to the yard?

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.” ’ ”

DISCOVER

Parables take earthly examples to teach lessons about God’s kingdom. First, always seek to identify what’s what in the analogy Jesus uses.

The one who sowed good seed?

The field?

The good seed?

The weeds?

The enemy?

The Harvest Time?

The Harvesters/Reapers?

The fiery furnace?

Who are the two primary rivals in this text?

Why does the Son of Man (Jesus) not entrust or charge the sons/daughters (you), of His kingdom, with pulling the “weeds” up?

Were you surprised in any way by this parable, if so, how?

DEEPEN

Parables have something to teach us about the Kingdom of Heaven

According to this parable, all people fall into one of how many categories?

What is the deciding factor as to what category a person falls in?

DELIVER

As we engage the Living Word, there is always an opportunity for us to move forward with an application from the reading.

In light of this parable, what will be different for you tomorrow?

In light of this parable, what have you learned about the “enemy,” which you need to be on guard for?

PRAY

Share something you’re thankful for and/or something you would like to see God change.

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“Lord, in your mercy ... hear our pray.”

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