

Puzzling Parables

The Wheat and the Weeds

Part 6 – October 16, 2016

Welcome to where we're learning what it means to bow our head.



Hillary or Trump? What would Jesus do? *Discuss. No, don't discuss!*

As a nation, we *have* discussed. *Jesus* would *have* disgust. I'm spelling it differently now.

The whole thing is disgusting; so, **what are we going to do? Bury our heads? Wait it out? Get sucked into the madness?**



Or, shine our light in the darkness? And, as *Kingdom Ambassadors first and foremost*, seek to influence whenever, wherever and however we can?

Fortunately, Jesus covers this confusing tangle of goodness, badness, and ugliness, in His parable: ***The Wheat and the Weeds***



This broken world is an impossibly mixed mess of good and evil and 50 shades of grey. In media. In politics. In business. In everything.

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. 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?' 'An enemy did this,' he replied. The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' 'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. 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 NIV



Two years into ministry, Jesus is at His home office in Capernaum, in a boat, teaching in parables, a massive crowd along the shore.

Jewish followers expected Jesus to **accomplish a political victory**, and **establish a physical kingdom**, and **abolish their human enemies**. And because of this deeply engrained belief, Jesus' parable of the wheat and the weeds was perplexing.

Especially to His disciples.

So, when Jesus takes a break, they come and question Him about this story of **God's seeming reluctance to rid the world of evil.**

Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the **Son of Man**. [A title for the Savior, from Daniel's vision of the Messiah (Jesus) taking His throne (Dan 7:13-14)] The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the **sons of the kingdom**. [As the Son of Man, Jesus took on the characteristics of man; as Sons of the Kingdom, we (the wheat) take on the characteristics of His Kingdom] The weeds are the **sons of the evil one**, [Those who take on the characteristics of the evil one] – Matthew 13:36-38 NIV



Jesus' crowd was well aware of the common weed He's referring to. It's called **darnel** (*Iolium temulentum*) or **false wheat**, or **perverted wheat**. It's like wheat 'cept it'll kill ya!

In Jesus' day, **it was sown in warfare, and for revenge, and as a very dirty trick. And, it was forbidden under Roman law.**¹

[Notice what Jesus said back in the parable] When the wheat sprouted and **formed heads, then** the weeds also appeared. – Matthew 13:26 NIV



When the wheat forms heads, they can see the difference. Know how? **Heads of wheat bow, but the heads of darnel remain rigid.**

Now, *that's* a characteristic of *the evil one*. **Though false wheat will thrive in the Savior's field, it'll die before submitting.**

Jesus is the Master at creating profound Kingdom comparisons with disarmingly common, everyday life com'parables. And, **the deeper you dig, the more treasure you discover.** I mean, identical plants, one poisonous, one nutritious, one bows its head! How perfect is *that*?

Maybe it's a little *too perfect*. As Jesus created this world, He knew what He'd need to use to communicate to us. Now follow me on this: turns out ... He's *God*!

I don't think Jesus composed His parables around everyday life. I think He composed everyday life around His parables!

Even as He was creating, He knew He was coming for you!

[In the parable, He said] 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?" "An enemy did this," he replied. – Matthew 13:27-28a NIV

¹ The Corpus Iuris Civilis (A.D. 533) codifies the Lex Aquilia (3rd century BC), wherein it states: "If you sow tares or wild oats in another man's crops and spoil them, not only can the owner bring the interdict against damage caused secretly or by force, but he can also proceed in factum under the Lex;"



This world is not as it should be, or was intended to be; or will be, come Election Day, no matter *who* wins. And, it can all be very frustrating and confusing and chaotic.

And **[that's because]** the enemy who sows them is the devil.
– Matthew 13:39a NIV



Jesus makes it clear that **there's a devil in the dirt, a cunning, sneaky enemy who makes bad appear good, and makes wrong seem right, and makes poison appealing.**

We live in a soiled tangle of true-believers and make-believers.

But don't go diggin' in the dirt and slingin' mud to get 'em.



[In the parable] The **servants** asked him, **[Jesus likens His disciples to "good and faithful servants" (Mat 25:21)]** 'Do you want **us** to go and pull them up?' 'No,' he answered, 'because while **you** are pulling the weeds, **you** may root up the wheat with them. – Matthew 13:28b-29 NIV

We're too spiritually clumsy and self-centered.

And, let's face it: **we're all dealing with a few weeds in our own field.**

We can't know, and sadly, often don't care, all the ways God's Spirit is working in hearts and minds; or what the future holds.

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. – 2 Peter 3:9 NIV



Your field ever have more *weeds* than wheat?

Aren't you glad God chose patience? How about offering the same courtesy to the next *darnel* you want to yank out of the TV!

This dirtied world hasn't gone to the devil; he's just hidin' in the garden till the appointed day.

And, whoever's standing, in defiance, with him, when the reapers come, is headed for the burn pile!

The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. – Matthew 13:39b-42 NIV

Jesus and I have something in common: we don't like to weed! He waits till the last moment. *I* wait till the last moment! He sends out His angels to do it. I send out *my* angel (Shar). He's filled with compassion, not wanting any to perish. *I'm lazy!* But, *other than that last one*, we're so alike!



How can we know if we're *sons of the kingdom* (especially you ladies)?

Simple: Do you bow?

Are you taking on His characteristics?

It's a process of practice and repentance; *and*, an attitude of recognizing that we're helpless to save ourselves, no matter *who* wins the White house, 'cause we're headed to a brighter *House!*



Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. – Matthew 13:43 NIV

Hear now this parable, as translated by Jesus:

The kingdom of heaven *is like a man who* **THE SON OF MAN** [who] sowed [i.e. **PLANTED**] good-seed **SONS OF HIS KINGDOM** in his field. **WORLD** But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy **THE DEVIL** came and sowed [i.e. **PLANTED**] weeds **HIS SONS** among the wheat, **SONS OF GOD'S KINGDOM** and went away. When the wheat **SONS OF GOD'S KINGDOM** sprouted [*blastanō: **SPRANG UP***] and formed [*poieō: **BROUGHT FORTH***] heads, [*karpos: **FRUIT***] then the weeds **SONS OF THE DEVIL** also appeared. "The owner's **SON OF MAN'S** servants [i.e. **DISCIPLES**] came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow [i.e. **PLANT**] good-seed **YOUR SONS** in your field **WORLD**? Where then did the weeds **SONS OF THE EVIL ONE** come from?' "'An enemy **THE DEVIL** did this,' he **THE SAVIOR** replied. "The servants [i.e. **DISCIPLES**] asked him, 'Do you want *us* to go and pull them up?' "'No,' he answered, 'because while *you* are pulling the weeds, **SONS OF THE EVIL ONE** [**OUT OF THIS WORLD**] *you* may root up the wheat **SONS OF MY KINGDOM** with them. Let both grow together until the harvest **END OF THE AGE**. At that time *I* will tell **SEND OUT** the harvesters **ANGELS**; First collect **TO PULL UP, OUT OF MY KINGDOM** the weeds **EVERYTHING THAT CAUSES SIN AND ALL WHO DO EVIL** and tie them in bundles [i.e. **BIND THEM**] to be burned **IN THE FIERY FURNACE, WHERE THERE WILL BE WEeping AND GNASHING OF TEETH**; [and to] then gather the wheat **RIGHTEOUS SONS OF MY KINGDOM** and bring it **THEM, SHINING LIKE THE SUN**, into my barn. **THE KINGDOM OF THEIR FATHER,**" – Matthew 13:24-30 NIV

There's one more *big* difference between wheat and darnel.

After it dies, wheat becomes golden, but false wheat turns black.

Reflect His character down here, and you'll radiate it there!