

Heads Bowed

Correctly Confronting Invasive Chaos

February 18, 2024

Today we're learning what it means to bow our heads to righteously confront this world's chaos!



I have a two-part question: Should *believers* vote for *Trump*? And: Should *Michelle Obama* replace *Biden*? What would *Jesus* do? *Discuss. No! Don't discuss!* Cuz *that'd* be *disgusting*. Because, as pretty much everyone can agree, **the whole state of politics in our nation is pretty much in a state of chaos**. But then, this *broken ol' world's* pretty much always been a *hectic, chaotic mix* of the *good*, the *bad*, and the *ugly* – in *politics, religion, business, media*, and pretty much *everything*. **So what are we to do? Battle it out? Bow out? Bury our heads?** What would *Jesus* do? May I suggest a *combination* of all *three*, and **bow our heads to do battle like Jesus!** He *directly addresses* this *ongoing, frustrating tangle* of *good and evil*, in a *parable* about *wheat and weeds*.

Every *gardener and farmer* feels the *frustration* of *weeds*. **You spray 'em, pull 'em, and curse 'em, but they come right back!** So, *Jesus* tells us *not* to be *surprised* when **evil does the same**; and there's *not much* we can *do* about it *down here*. He told this from a *boat*, to a *massive crowd* on the *shore* of His *headquarters* in *Capernaum*. Because, His followers *fully incorrectly expected* Him to: **accomplish a political victory**; and **establish a physical kingdom**; and **abolish their mortal enemies**. And *because* of this *deeply engrained belief*, this *allegory* of *good and bad gains*, and *God's seeming reluctance* to *rid* the world of *evil* – was *greatly perplexing*; *especially* to His *young apprentices*, who kept *asking* about it *after* His *resurrection!* (Acts 1:6) But *Jesus* had said:

"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. [Because at first they can look so alike; so] 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*.'" ... Then [after telling two more parables] He *left* the *crowd* and went into the *house*. [But] 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. The *field* is the *world*, and the *good seed* stands for the sons of the kingdom. The *weeds* are the sons of the evil one, and the *enemy* who sows *them* is the *devil*. The *harvest* is the *end* of the *age*, and the *harvesters* are *angels*." – Matthew 13:24-39 NIV



Jesus' crowd was well aware of the weed He's referring to. It's called dandelion, or *false wheat*, or *perverted wheat*. It's just like wheat 'cept it'll kill ya! And in Jesus' day, it was sown in warfare, and for revenge. In fact, it was forbidden under Roman law, to "sow tares or wild oats".¹ We think He's referring to dandelion, because He says: "When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared". Because both heads appear alike till they mature, then the difference is clear. Just as:

Sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. – James 1:15 NKJ

But, know how the heads differ at the harvest? **Wheat Heads bow, while dandelion weed-heads remain stiff necked and rigid.** Which we're told is a trait of those rebellious to righteousness.

They did not listen or incline [lit. bow] their ear, but stiffened their neck, that they might not hear and receive instruction – Jeremiah 17:23 ESV



As righteous Stephen said, just before he was stoned by religious weeds:

"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit." ... But they cried out ... stopped their ears ... and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. – Acts 7:51-58 ESV

A.k.a. the Apostle Paul. You know, the guy who headed up the hunting down and murdering of believers, before receiving Christ and composing two thirds of the New Testament! But, back in his "B.C. days" you would've said, "There's no way that guy's not a weed!" Because **we live in a soiled tangle of true-believers, non-believers, not-yet-believers, and make-believers.** And Jesus' servants are too heavy-handed and self-serving to even begin to figure out how to sift 'em out. Remember, **Jesus put up with a Judas!** And we don't have to wonder "What would Jesus do?" Cuz we know exactly what He did. **He loved on him, prayed for him, even washed his feet, till he weeded himself out.**

Cuz eventually, we'll either bow down or bow out. It's not that we're not to confront wickedness; but, **we're to confront it with love, without condemnation, with heads bowed to Christ's authority.** Know what Jesus and I have in common? We both hate weeding! **He hates it because He's loving and just and desires that no one should perish** – whereas I'm just lazy. But other than motive, we're so alike! I mean, when weeding is inevitable, we both send out our angels to do it! It's interesting that the last thing recorded that Jesus says (in Revelation), is a reminder to:

"Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy. See, I am coming soon; My reward is with Me, to repay according to everyone's work." ["That's My job, not yours."] – Revelation 22:11-12 NRS

¹ The Corpus [Iuris Civilis](#) (533AD) codifies the Lex [Aquilina](#) (3rd century BC) which 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;"



And Simon-Peter, who's famous for impatience, eager ear-lobbing, and, in a very weedy moment, denying Christ, reminds us that:

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some think of slowness, [just as He's not "coming soon" as some think of soon'ness] but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. – 2 Peter 3:9 NRS



And let's face it, **we've all got a few weeds in our own field!** So let's make an effort to stop condemning the weeds of others; and **let's work on getting a grip on rounding up our own!**

In light of some of the untamed areas of my own field – that I wish only grew the fruit of God's Spirit – all I can do is praise Him, and thank Him, for His patience with me! How about you? **Shouldn't we offer that same courtesy of compassion to others?** Since we can't know, and often don't even ponder, all the ways His Spirit might be currently, patiently working in their hearts and minds. So what do you say? **Let's just pray to stay out of His way, and put down the spray!**

Cuz this side of Heaven, wheat and weeds can look a lot alike. And we're dealing with an enemy who makes bad look good, and wrong feel right, and poison appear appealing, and the harmful healthy. And **he's out to rob us by tempting us to remain unbowed in some way.** So how do I know if I'm a wheat or a weed? Simple. When my way conflicts with Thy way, **I bow in submission to His way.** And if and when I fail, **I bow in regret and repentance.** Either way, the bowing is always the internally obvious difference between a true-believer and a make-believer.

And keep in mind, we're bowing to the Master Servant who bowed to death on our behalf!



"I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." – John 12:24 NKJ

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His Spirit. – John 19:30 NKJ



Taking the form of a servant ... He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death. Therefore God has highly exalted Him ... so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow – Philippians 2:7-10 ESV



But, remember this weirdness just the night before, when:

The Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you" – Luke 22:31-32 NKJ

"So You're gonna let him?!" Yes. But, know why the devil has to ask for permission? Because **he has no authority to act on his own.** And know why he's given permission? Not to get too deep in the weeds on this, but he's only ever allowed in the field, **to make possible God's greatest gift: free will.** Which, by definition, requires that seeds of discontentment be sown.

But, it seems the devil's just as confused by the infinite brilliance of God's ways as we so often are, and as the disciples so often were. Because in this instance, **like always, he's playing into the previously commanded hand of God.** Jesus didn't say he only asked to sift Simon-Peter.

“For surely I will command, and will sift the [entire] house of Israel among all nations, as grain is sifted in a sieve; yet not the smallest grain [lit. rock (ESV, NAS), which in Greek can be Petra which we pronounce Peter] shall fall to the ground.” – Amos 9:9 NKJ

Which is what the *Rock of Salvation* had *nicknamed Simon!* Remember when ...

[Simon] said, “You are the *Christ*, the *Son of the living God*.” Jesus [said], “Blessed are you, *Simon Bar-Jonah*, for *flesh and blood* has not revealed this to you, but *My Father* who is in *heaven*. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this *Rock* I will build *My church*, and the *gates of Hades* shall *not* prevail against it.” – Matthew 16:16-18 NKJ

For the one who sows to his *own flesh* will from the *flesh reap corruption*, but the one who sows to the *Spirit* will from the *Spirit reap eternal life*. – Galatians 6:8 ESV

[For] There is a way that *seems right* to a man, but its *end* is the way of *death*. ... [Because] An *ungodly man digs up evil*, and ... a *perverse man sows strife* – Proverbs 16:25-28 NKJ



[And] Whoever sows *injustice* will *reap calamity* – Proverbs 22:8 ESV



Jesus is the Master at creating *profound* com'parables. I'm not *talking* about *parables*, but *creation*. **As He created our world, He designed into it what He knew He'd need to communicate with us.** I mean, *c'mon!* *Identical* plants, one *poisonous*, one *nutritious*, one *bows its head!* In the *beginning*, **even as He was creating, He knew He was coming to speak to you!** And what's really cool about His *wheat and weeds* parable, is that **Jesus provides a decoder, regarding who's what, and what's who.** So, let's read the *same story*, as *translated* by the *Author*.

The *Lord* scattered His *kids* in the *world*. But while the *world slept*, the *devil* scattered *evil kids* among the *kids of the kingdom*. And as the *good ones grew* and their *heads matured*, the *bad ones were obvious*. So the *Lord's servants* came and said, ‘*Lord, didn't You sow good kids in Your world? Where did the evil kids come from? 'The devil,'* He replied. ‘*Do you want us to go and weed the evil ones out of Your world? 'No, because while removing the bad kids, you'll pull up some of the good kids. We must let both grow together until the end of the age. Then I'll tell the angels to bind the evil for destruction; and to gather the good and bring 'em home.' ... And then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.* – Matthew 13:24-30, 43 NIV

[Because] Those who sow *righteousness* get a *true reward*. – Proverbs 11:18 NRS

Light is sown for the *righteous*, and *joy* – Psalm 97:11 ESV

That's *one more big difference* between *wheat* and *darnel*, that's *easily discerned at harvest time: when wheat dies it brightens and turns golden, whereas darnel darkens and turns black.* So:

Sow for yourselves *righteousness*, [and] *reap the fruit of unfailing love* – Hosea 10:12 NIV

[And remember] The *fruit of righteousness* is sown in *peace* – James 3:18 NKJ

Cuz in the *end*, **making it to the White House pales compared to making it to the Light House!**