

## A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1:

A Short Story: On Life On Earth

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Slide 2:

Matthew 13:24-30 (ESV)

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.” ’ ”

Slide 3:

Matthew 13:36-43 (ESV)

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” 37 He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, 42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Slide 4:

How to avoid making the most common mistakes in Bible interpretation:

- 1) Remember the metanarrative
- 2) Harmonize with all scripture
- 3) Don't think about you first, think about context first (them)

Slide 5:

Points of Impact:

- 1) The Kingdom is in process

Slide 6:

Jesus wants them (us) to manage their expectations. It was doing something bigger than ripping out visible evil.

Slide 7:

Points of Impact:

2) The Kingdom requires patience and perspective because the roots are intertwined

Slide 8:

We can't pull out "evil" without pulling out our own lives

Slide 9:

God uses evil as it grows up with the redeemed

Slide 10:

These truths keep us from becoming zealots or passive in our world.

## **B. GROUP DISCUSSION**

1) Read the scripture and consider/share the various messages that one may draw from this story that Jesus told about weeds planted in a field of wheat.

2) Discuss Bible interpretation. How can you implement these three ways to "come to" the Word of God? Does this change the way you approach scripture?

1) Remember the Grand Story

2) Harmonize truth with ALL scripture

3) Understand context first before meaning for you today

3) The Kingdom is in process, meaning it is Already here, but Not Yet here. What would that have meant for the disciples? What does that mean for you and your own life today?

4) The Kingdom requires patience and perspective because the roots of the righteous and the roots of the unredeemed are twisted together. So what does that mean, and what does that not mean?

5) Discuss why we shouldn't rip weeds up based on the ideas of 1) hurting while trying to help, and 2) God using evil to accomplish His good purposes

6) How do these truths help us find the balance between the two extremes of zealotry and passivity?

7) Prayer and praise