



YES NO MAYBE

1 If I didn't know the person next to me, and I met them on the street, I'd have a difficult time guessing they were a church-going Christian.

2 I would rather clean my house than pull weeds in my yard.

3 Christians look different than others.

4 It is difficult to see that God is in charge of the world today.

5 I don't understand why God allows so much suffering in the world around me.

^| If we have full access to God's power now, why has it not triumphed more--both visibly and overtly?

READ Matthew 13:24-30

Î IN THE DEEP WEEDS NOW...

ǃ What have you been taught that this parable is talking about, and what is Jesus wanting us to do with this information?

READ Matthew 13:36-43

Î ...PLEASE EXPLAIN!

ǃ Jesus tries to help his disciples understand the imagery:

° **The Son of Man** - The good farmer. And yes, there is a bad farmer.

° **The field** - This is where the most confusion and alternate application occurs. What does Jesus say the field represents? Why is this significant?

° **The good seed** - How is this different from the Parable of the Sower? Do they still compliment each other?

° **The weeds** - [ζιζάνια - *zizânia*] Probably darnel, a poisonous plant related to wheat and virtually indistinguishable from it until the ears form. To sow darnel among wheat as an act of revenge was punishable in Roman law, which suggests that the parable depicts a real-life situation. A light infestation of darnel could be tackled by careful weeding, but mistakes would easily be made. In the case of a heavy infestation the stronger roots of the darnel would be tangled with those of the wheat, making selective weeding impossible.

° **The enemy sower** - An imitator of the good sower. A counterfeit. The devil.

° **The harvest** - The end of the world.



° The harvesters - The angels from God.

¶ How does this principle here apply in every age to the question of why God allows evil and suffering in the world?

¶ Jesus tells this parable to give more insight into God's character. Some might see him saying here, "This is what it is like when God is at work." What does this tell you about how God views and responds to the devil's plans?

1 How faithful am I, even during the times when it looks like being a God-follower doesn't make a difference in the world?

2 How does God need me to respond to the suffering in my world?

3 What do I understand more clearly about God's character, now that I've looked at this Kingdom Tale?

MY
PRAYER

NOTES