

## THE PARABLE THIS WEEK:

**Matthew 13:24-30 (ESV)** “He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So, when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. 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?’ 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?’ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. 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.” ’ ”

## CONTEXT:

- The audience would have been familiar with the context and understood how weeds and wheat can look alike.
  - Most scholars believe the weed is “*darnel*”. Prior to getting ripe, darnel looks a lot like wheat.
- People have formed different interpretations of what this parable is talking about. The most common misinterpretation is that this is about the state of the church.
  - They believe we are supposed to be culling the crop of “*wanna-be*” Christians. Yet that isn’t what this parable is talking about.

## Jesus Actually Tells Us the Meaning of the Parable:

**Matthew 13:36-43 (ESV)** “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.’ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.’ ”

- Jesus is the sower, the field is the world, Satan is the enemy, the wheat is the people of the Kingdom, and the weeds are the people of the evil one.
- Notice that the people are separated into two groups: Kingdom people and non-Kingdom people.

## 1. No Other Divisions Matter, Yet We Often Want To Make A Big Deal Of Them. (**Galatians 3:26-28 (ESV)**)

- Notice the distinction isn’t about gender, income, intelligence, or politics. It’s Child of God or not.
- While morality plays into our belief systems, if we are honest, morality is not usually at the heart of our bias. Often times, it’s just a bias against differences.
- 3 values that can be the cause of personal biases: Biblical principles, personal preferences, or cultural norms.
- The question is, “*Do I care more about being right in a debate about my opinions than I do representing Jesus in a way that might give someone a chance at crossing the line of faith?*”
- **1 Corinthians 9:19-23; 1 Peter 5:8-9 (ESV)**

## 2. For So Many Of Us, The Question Is, “Why Does God Wait? Why Doesn’t God Bring Judgement Now?”

- **2 Peter 3:9 (ESV)**
  - God desires none should perish. He wants everyone to be in relationship with Him!
  - When we see people acting sinfully, especially when it hurts others, we want to take it out on them. That’s because we forget what the Bible tells us about who our enemy is (**Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)**)!

- The parable makes it clear: **We are not qualified to judge who is or is not a follower of Christ**—or at least who will become one.
  - We don't get to write people off as lost causes (**Matthew 5:44-45 ESV**).

### **Does Your Heart Break For Those Who Are Not People Of The Kingdom? Listen To What Paul Said:**

**Philippians 3:17-19 (ESV)** “Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.”

### **This Passage Reinforces The Parable We Are Studying:**

**Philippians 3:20-21 (ESV)** “<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. ”

- At the right time, He will bring everything under His control. There will be a judgement, but He longs for people to repent and call on His name!

## **QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS:**

Passages to consider: **Matthew 13:24-30,36-43 (ESV)**

1. What passage or principle from the sermon is God using to strengthen your relationship with Him?
2. Read **Matthew 13:24-30 (ESV)**. Who is Jesus talking to? What does He want His people to understand?
3. Read **Matthew 13:36-43 (ESV)**. How did Jesus explain the parable He told? What questions do you have about the parable and/or the explanation?
4. Wheat and darnel can look similar when they are young plants. What is something, in your experience, that looked good to begin with but with time proved to not be good?
5. What appears like wheat—sons of the Kingdom of God—in your world at the moment? What seems to be weeds/darnel—sons of the evil one—in your world right now? How do you respond to each of them? Read **Romans 12:9-21(ESV)** with this parable in mind.
6. What is your response to what Jesus is saying in this week's parable? With whom can you share the story or your response?

**Passage to prepare for next week: **Matthew 12:24-30; Mark 3:23-27; Luke 11:14-23 (ESV)****