

Matthew 13

- 3rd major sermon in Matthew
- Collection of parables focused on the dynamics of the Kingdom of God in the present age
- **Parable** – everyday story taken from real life that communicates spiritual truth; often has surprise/twist
- **Parables in Ch 13 answering:**
 - If Jesus is the Messiah, then why is He being rejected?
 - Why isn't the Kingdom Jesus is establishing making more of an impact?

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Parable of the Weeds Explained

- **The Man Who Sowed Good Seed** – Jesus
- **The Field** - The World
- **Good Seed** - People of the Kingdom
- **Weeds** - People of the evil one
- **The Enemy** - The Devil
- **The Servants** - The Disciples
- **The Harvest**- The End of The Age (When Christ Returns to rule and reign)

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Parable of the Weeds

The Servants - The Disciples

They are confused by the rise in opposition and the seemingly backsliding ministry of Jesus-

- Expectation of Messiah as Conquering King (Zechariah 14)
- Despite seemingly contradictory prophecies foretelling a Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53)
- Some of the Jewish rabbis even suggested that there would be two Messiahs, a humble, suffering one and a conquering, reigning one; but no one was suggesting that the same Messiah would come twice, once to suffer and once to reign.

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Parable of the Weeds

The Harvest- The End of The Age (When Christ Returns to rule and reign)

- Jesus is communicating to his disciples that in his Kingdom in the current age- his people will grow up in the midst of the weeds, and in the age to come there will be a separation of good and evil.

Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

Mustard Seed and Yeast -

- Two seemingly insignificant things that bring about great change

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Jesus' Objective

- Jesus is addressing the confusion and concerns of the disciples that find themselves surrounded by weeds and opposition
- Jesus is addressing the question that has often lived in the hearts of his people:
 - Didn't you sow good seed?
 - How long O God will my enemies prevail against me?
 - How long will the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer?

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The Weeds in Our Lives

Types of conflicts in story

- **Man vs Self** (sin, temptation, addiction)
- **Man vs Man** (robbed, abused, neglected)
- **Man vs Society** (political parties)
- **Man vs Nature** (Sickness and death)
- **Man vs Supernatural** (all of the above)

What are the weeds in your life?

- Each of us may feel as though they have a different opponent, but we all have them in our life, and at times it feels as though they are winning.

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Wait

- Waiting is active, not passive
- Waiting on island of suffering vs rock of ages
- To wait is to cling to Jesus the rock of your salvation



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Wait

- To actively wait is to cling to Jesus
- We cling to Jesus through prayer

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
As it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
If I surrender to His Will;
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with Him
Forever and ever in the next.

Amen.

A prayer attributed to Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)



Participate

- How do we participate?
- Participate in His mercy, not His judgment
 - We must join with Christ in what He is doing, and in the **WAYS** He is doing it.
 - The way of Jesus is the slow and seemingly insignificant acts of love and kindness towards people in the everyday stuff of life.

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