



Pt. 2: Hidden in Plain Sight; Parable of the Weeds

So often, through things that happen, we are reminded of the evil that is in our world. In the midst of this, we often ask why God doesn't do anything about it. The parable of the weeds told by Jesus speaks to this issue and reveals God's long-term strategy for dealing with it. It's another example of what the kingdom of heaven is like and what God will do with those that sow weeds of evil in His Kingdom.

Bottom Line: The Kingdom is present despite the presence of evil, and evil will be fully dealt with at the coming judgment.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you like or dislike gardening? Why?
2. A weed is a destructive force in a garden. It zaps nutrients and chokes out good plants. "Weeds" in the world are also destructive. How? Give an example.
3. **Read Matthew 5:13-16.** Think of a person that you know who is salt and the light. What behaviors do they exhibit that makes them stand out?
4. **Read Matthew 13:24-25.** Give an example of how you've seen or experienced something good turn bad. What caused this?
5. **Read Matthew 13:37-42.** What does this passage teach us about Satan? What is God's response to evil? What will happen to those who God considers good seeds and bad seeds? (vs 43) How do these passages about judgement make you feel?
6. How can a Christian be a positive influence on non-christian friends and co-workers?
7. The devil is very tempting. We must intentionally nurture a relationship with God. What can **you** do this week to ensure you are more like wheat and less like a weed?
8. How can your group support you this week?
9. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?