

February 24, 2019
Tales of the Kingdom
Wheat and Weeds
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Matthew 13:24-43

Evil **Forces Are at work**
James 1:17 Ephesians 6:12 John 10:10

Reserve **your Judgement**
Matthew 7:1-5 John 3:17 John 12:47

God Will Ultimately Choose
Matthew 25: 31 - 46 1 Corinthians 5:12

Be The Wheaties **Champion**
2 Peter 1:5-11 2 Corinthians 13:5

Many weeds are like imposters when they are small and are left to grow larger until the evidence of their weediness is expressed. Young children often blow the seeds off the dandelion heads and wonder why we call them "weeds" when they appear so bright and colorful when in flower.

Weeds can deplete the soil of nutrients and the weeds in life can cause a lot of problems and distractions.

In the parable of the wheat and the weeds, the enemy sowed in the field while everyone was sleeping.

Read 1 Peter 5:8 and 2 Peter 2:1-3.

What can happen to us, to the Church, to our nation if we don't pay attention?

In what ways do you see people sleeping when they ought to be awake?

The field is an example of both the Church and the World. It is full of both wheat and weeds. They are to co-exist.

Jesus said let them grow together.

What does that imply for us and how difficult is that or can it be at times?

Read Philippians 2:3, James 4:6, 1 Peter 2:1

When it comes to relating to others, where should our focus be?

What needs to happen in us so that we can live at peace with the "weeds" in life?

Consider Romans 9:22-24

How does God treat those he knows are the bad seed?

What is God's purpose in his patience.

How can that help us in the way we view the weeds in the church and in the world?

The Church has been criticized as being too judgmental. When it comes to declaring the truth to a culture flows against God and His Word, how can we do it without judging?

Is there a non-judgmental way to speak God's truth to people so that they are convinced or convicted? Is it something we are supposed to be concerned about?

Read Matthew 7:1-5 and 15-20. What is the measure we are instructed to use as believers when it comes to discernment about others?

Why is it so easy to judge others but not judge ourselves?

In what ways can overzealous judgment of the world and its evils harm our mission as believers?

Why do you think patience and tolerance toward unbelievers is so difficult for the disciples (and for us)?

A distinctive of wheat is that it bows its head when it is mature. Not so with the dandelion or the weeds. Their heads stand straight and tall. One could think that a bowed head shows humility.

In what ways do you think humility can help us be less judgmental? How can we cultivate this characteristic in our own lives?

Read and meditate on 1 Peter 5:6 ; Colossians 3:12