

Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

G . The Second Tour of Galilee

7. The Kingdom Parable of the Weeds

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #093

Base Text: MT 13.24-30, 36-43 (Parallel Texts: None)

24 Jesus told them another parable: (The Weeds in the Field)

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

27 "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? So where did the weeds come from?'"

28 "An enemy did this," he replied."

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'"

29 "No," he answered, 'because while you are pulling up the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them too. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather all the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

36 Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Please explain the parable of the weeds in the field to us."

37 Jesus answered them, *"The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.*

40 "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. 42 They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

"Whoever has ears, let them keep on hearing."

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *the words of Jesus are italicized in red*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Somewhere in Galilee, In a Home Near the Sea of Galilee
Timeline	May (Month Sixteen)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IV: The Great Galilean Ministry
	G. The 2 nd Tour of Galilee
Title	7. The Kingdom Parable of the Weeds

Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

COMMENT:

We see again in today's reading that Jesus' disciples did not understand this parable when they first heard it. They wasted no time in asking him the meaning of it as soon as they had the opportunity. He was not surprised by this and welcomed their desire to understand what people on the "outside" did not grasp.

The series of 10 parables that Jesus delivered by the Sea of Galilee on this day all described different aspects of living under his lordship, in the kingdom of God. Understanding life in the kingdom involves a shift in our world view--our understanding of what constitutes reality. We must move from seeing the world through our own eyes, as influenced by the culture that surrounds us, to viewing all things from the perspective of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Without undergoing this fundamental shift in our world view, we will find ourselves in constant tension with Jesus and his word. His perspective is fundamentally different from ours, and his view alone is true, accurate, and right in all things. As his disciples we must gradually learn to think from his point of view-- a "kingdom perspective." These parables were designed to challenge our entrenched world view, so that we can begin to understand his. Each parable describes some aspect of the way things are in the kingdom.

We have seen that the first two parables are different from the rest, in that they are "analogy-type" parables rather than "main-point" style. Analogy-type match up all the important details in the scenario with the listener's world; main-point style parables do not. Therefore, the Synoptic gospels contain Jesus' detailed explanation of the two "analogy-type" parable that started the sequence. Pay close attention to Jesus' explanation in verses 37-43 of the details of the analogy.

The first two parables were also related in another way. In the parable of the Sower it was Jesus (and later his workers, or disciples) who came "sowing" the seed of his word. God's reign over his creation is mediated by what he speaks. Jesus already said that great faith recognizes his absolute authority, and therefore seeks to live in submission to what God has said. The kingdom of God is a realm in which God's word rules all things.

In today's parable of the Weeds, it was Satan who sowed the weeds in competition with Jesus. This illustrates the inherent conflict between a kingdom point of view, and the world's way of thinking. This battle of ideas and values will never end until Jesus comes again, for both kingdom people of faith, and non-believers co-exist in this world.

God does not seek to remove Christians from this world in this age. Rather, he seeks to use believers to plant his word, recognizing that the Devil is actively sowing his lies at the same time. It is only at the end of the age when believers and non-believers will be separated out, and live for eternity in different realms. A wise kingdom perspective therefore evaluates everything we experience in this life in light of how it will impact eternity, as determined at the final judgement.

We should not be surprised that we live in a world that is as full of evil as it is good. We live in a realm populated with people who do not believe in King Jesus and who resist his reign over them, just as we did until we believed in our King. The Devil ultimately lies behind every disobedient attitude and action toward the Trinity and their will, for it was the Devil who invented the concept of rebellion and sin in the first place, and sowed it in the world.

APPLICATION:

The world (the field in this parable) is a place where seeds must be sown. Ideas and beliefs must be communicated--they must be sown. The Devil and his lies are actively influencing the way people think. Disciples must faithfully sow the truth of Jesus just as prolifically as the weed reproduce themselves. This begins with wholesale acceptance of Jesus' perspective as our own.

How are you sowing the gospel seed?

What can you do to be more consistent, and effective in communicating the gospel?