

“Living with the Weeds”

07-20-14

Are you a Weed or Wheat? That’s a strange question isn’t it? But that’s the focus of our Gospel lesson today. There’s a difference between weeds and wheat. The seed was sown, everything was going great, until the servants noticed that some weeds growing up in the field too. They ran to the owner. He said an enemy sowed the bad seed in his field because he’d used good seed.

The servants, being eager to make the field look good again, asked if they should go and pull out the weeds. But the master said no, because until the weeds and the wheat ripen, no one could really tell them apart and they might disturb the good wheat along with trying to pull up the weeds.

He tells them to leave the fields alone. When the plants are young, they look a lot alike. That’s the same way it is today as we look at some of the people around us. You can’t tell the difference between these two groups of people, but when the close of the age comes, and the harvest of the world is ready, the angels will separate the evil ones from the righteous ones. The evil ones will be burned in hell’s fire and the righteous people will live with Him for eternity.

The disciples didn’t quite understand, so Jesus identified the characters. The Sower: the Son of God. The Field: The World. The Enemy: Satan. The Good Seed: the People of God. The Weeds: The Sons of Satan. The Judge: God. The Reapers: The Angels. The Result: Heaven or Hell.

This parable wasn’t told so we would go around and judge others and decide who’s a weed and who’s wheat! Jesus is very clear on that, it’s His responsibility to judge not ours! I don’t want you to look at your neighbor and say, “*You know, Pastor’s really talking about you.*” The parable is for us to take a closer look at our own life, and the way we live. We need to seek repentance for any way we’ve sinned and instead turn around and bear fruit for Jesus. The parable isn’t for us to be judgmental!

As we look at ourselves this morning, and as we compare ourselves to the example of weeds or wheat, we need to ask ourselves, “What are we?” Do we want to look like the wheat when it’s convenient for us, and then be like weeds the rest of the time? Or putting it another way, does our faith in Jesus and the responsibility for living a committed kind of life get turned on and off when it’s easy for us?

Many people label Christians hypocrites. Hypocrites say one thing or expect one thing from others and not themselves. Are we like that? Do we have one standard for ourselves, and another standard for others? Or are we consistent, living out what Jesus demonstrated in His life as the way of living each day we face on this earth?

Ask yourself if being a follower of Jesus stops when you leave the church and starts again when you enter the doors again next Sunday? Or does being a Christian do something to your entire life, 7 days a week 24 hours a day? Judge for yourself, because you’re the only one who can answer those questions, you’re the only one who knows what’s in the center of your mind and heart!

Another question this parable asks is: “*Are you being productive with your life?*” “*Are you bearing fruit for the sake of the Gospel?*” Jesus says wheat bears good fruit,

but weeds don't bear anything! Are you willing to bear fruit and get involved for the sake of the Gospel message?

Our church is always in need of people to help with projects or run for offices. We constantly need K.I.C.K. teachers, council officers, or others to volunteer. We have opportunities to impact the community around us. But I wonder why it's so difficult to find people to do these function if we all want to bear fruit? Is it because too many have a difficult time finding the wheat in their lives?

Jesus asks you this morning to search your hearts and souls to see if you'll bear fruit for Him. He asks if you're willing to get involved for the sake of His Gospel message? He wants us to be His wheat, His people. How?

We need to be faithful! We need to be in His Word and prayer each and every day. Luther put it this way, *"You must always have God's Word in your heart, you're your lips, and in your ears. But where the heart is idle and the Word does not make a sound, the devil breaks in and has done the damage before we are aware."* The world and the weeds around us are definitely in need of God's direction and help. We need to turn to Him, seeking His guidance and forgiveness.

We need to be consistent! Being a child of God isn't a just a one hour, Sunday morning thing! It's a 24 hour, seven-day thing! Jesus must come first, last, and everything in-between!

We need to be Christ! As people see you, they should see Him. They should see you're different and something has changed you. You've been changed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. You're no longer the same!

Look at Matthew 25. We need to share Christ! We're to actively get on with the mission Jesus has given us—proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom of God drawing near! We can leave the weeding to the angels! Look at verses 31-34, *"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"*

The world you live in is filled with weeds and wheat. It's not your job to judge, but it's your job to live as wheat and love everyone, including the weeds!