

Weeds Are Destined for the Fire

Promise: the assaults by the evil one will not go on forever

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isa 44:6-8; Ps 119:57-64; Rom 8:18-27; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
(Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, Pr. 11), 7/19/26

At harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn. — v. 30

Lead In – Whether or not you have a green thumb if you can't get anything else to grow in your garden you will have no problem having a bed full of weeds. With millions of dormant seeds already in the worked-up soil all they need is sunlight and moisture. Most weeds are hearty little buggers. The thorns and thistles, the crabgrass and dandelions, they do not need special care to thrive. And the problem, of course, is that they compete with what you have carefully planted for sunlight, water, and the nutrients of the soil.

I. In Contrast to Lesson in the Parable of the Sower

- A. Cutting out thorns in the Parable of the Sower...
- B. Let both grow together in the Parable of the Weeds...
- C. Damage with too much zeal and also different weeds...

II. Learning Kingdom Truths By Way of Analogy

- A. When things are like but not the same...
- B. It is possible to try to milk a parable for too much...
- C. Jesus helps us with what is meant...

III. Two Important Truths Stand Out in the Parable

- A. Knowing about the possibility of Darnel is instructive...
- B. There is an enemy, awareness without preoccupation...
- C. Watch misplaced zeal in rooting out evil...

Final Word – With news 24/7 we are acutely aware of all the evil shenanigans in the world. Is this good for us? I think we all know it isn't the least bit healthy. Unfortunately, the bad news is not confined to society in general but is true of the Church in this age as well. This can be especially discouraging! Where is the perfect society? Where is the perfect church? Well, according to our Lord, you won't find it in this age. Evil will persist until the Lord's return. Meanwhile, Jesus encourages us with these words in John 16:33, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." Friends, the weeds are destined for the fiery furnace. And redeemed sinners can look forward to shining like the sun in the kingdom of our Father. Amen.

Mt 13:22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

Mt 16:23 "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

1Pe 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Ep 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Matthew 24-30, 36-43 ESV

The Parable of the Weeds

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' ²⁸He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

Co 3:2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

1Co 5:6 Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

Ro 13:1-4 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

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Psalm *Psalm 119:57–64; antiphon: v. 89*

HETH

⁵⁷The LORD is my | portion,*

I promise to | keep your words.

⁵⁸I entreat your favor with | all my heart,*

be gracious to me according to your | promise.

⁵⁹When I think | on my ways,*

I turn my feet to your testi- | monies;

⁶⁰I hasten and do | not delay*

to keep your com- | mandments.

⁶¹Though the cords of the wicked en- | snare me,*

I do not for- | get your law.

⁶²At midnight I rise to | praise you,*

because of your just and righ- | teous decrees.

⁶³I am a companion of all who | fear you,*

of those who keep your | precepts.

⁶⁴The earth, O LORD, is full of your | steadfast love,*

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