

Monday, 11 July 2016 Matthew 13:24-30 [1]

He put another parable before them, saying, "**The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And 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?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.'** So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let 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.'"

No question here. The Lord Jesus Christ has sown good seed into His field. The Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now was seeded with three years of His teaching to the twelve and they were sent out to carry that teaching into all the world. The seed were and continue to be good and are sown throughout His entire Kingdom.

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Tuesday, 12 July 2016 Matthew 13:24-30 [2]

He put another parable before them, saying, "*The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, **but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.** And 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?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let 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.'"*

"While His men were sleeping" What a damning phrase. How often do I through inattention or pride allow the enemy to sow doubt or discord or false teaching among the faithful? Do I forget that those I am privileged to shepherd deserve my very best efforts to lead them into green pastures? Lord, forgive and transform me.

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Wednesday, 13 July 2016 Matthew 13:24-30 [3]

He put another parable before them, saying, "*The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the*

*wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. **And 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?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.'** So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let 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.'"*

The enemy is as a roaring lion, quick and vicious to sow discord wherever he can in the vineyard of the Kingdom. Not only among those who have made the Kingdom turn but among the field where we are called to minister.

Lord, do not let me become discouraged that the vineyard you have called me to tend is one that has weeds.

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Thursday, 14 July 2016 Matthew 13:24-30 [4]

He put another parable before them, saying, "*The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And 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?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let 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.'"*

As I was thinking about tending a garden, the thought came to mind that if I can't pull the weeds lest I also destroy some of the grain, then as I tend the grain, I will also be tending the weeds; both will benefit from my husbandry. Is my Lord and Master telling me not to judge, to be the Kingdom light to all? I think so. But Lord, how hard it is to serve those who despise You. You cried out, "*Father, forgive them because they know not what they do.*" I must learn to live by the same rubric.

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Friday, 15 July 2016 Matthew 13:24-30 [5]

He put another parable before them, saying, "*The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then*

*the weeds appeared also. And 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?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let 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.**'"*

The fruit is revealed and proven at harvest time, even when grown and nurtured in the same field and with the same care. I remember my apple picking days in Grandpa Spence's orchard as one tree would have beautiful, well-formed apples and the next would be all gnarly, blemished and miss-shaped.

The first were hand polished and packed to be sold as selects; the latter into the feed troughs for the livestock.

Lord, my prayer is that Your Spirit will transform me into a select fruit.

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*Saturday, 16 July 2016 Matthew 13:31-32*

*He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.*

I've always taken this parable as referring to my level of faith and found it discouraging. How could I grow into a tree that would provide shelter for all? Lost cause!

But now I see how wrong I was, Jesus was telling His disciples how the Kingdom of Heaven will grow, starting with a small band of the least, as fishermen, and the despised, Matthew the tax collector, into a powerful expression of the Kingdom in the here and now.

Sometimes, I get discouraged at the rejection of the Kingdom in this nation, but my Lord and Master is telling me that the Kingdom continues to grow and cannot be stopped. Hallelujah.

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*Lord's Day, 17 July 2016 Psalm 119:51*

*The insolent utterly deride me, but I do not turn away from your law.*

Lord, I am seeking to follow Your Law to love my neighbor but not doing a very good job of loving one in particular. Help me, Lord.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*July 11-17, 2016*

I was dealing with a very difficult and perplexing problem in the spring of 1989 and tackling it by trying to learn everything I could on the subject. One evening, as I continued my studies, God told me very clearly that the root of the problem was that I did not know Him. I put down the book I was reading and picked up a Bible figuring that was where I was going to find Him. That began what has been a 27-year search to know, really know in a John 17:3 way, the Lord, God the Almighty.'

Voices Together has and continues to be, a very important part of that search. It is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Scriptures as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org); along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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or at

The Fellowship of Ailbe, [voices@ailbe.org](mailto:voices@ailbe.org)  
Realizing the presence, promise and power  
of the Kingdom of God.

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\*LORD or LORD, God the Almighty always refers to the Trinitarian God.