

Matthew 13:24-30
GOD'S DECISION:
"Let both grow together!"
By: Pastor Wayne Halldorson

Grace, mercy, and peace are yours today, because of our Saviour Jesus. Our SERMON TEXT for today is: **Matthew 13:24-30**

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'" "An enemy did this," he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'" "No," he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. 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 the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

It's the government's job to make all sorts of decisions that affect the lives of Canadians. They make some good decisions – and some bad ones. We might agree with some of their decisions and disagree with others. Some decisions may delight us, while others may be very tough to swallow.

The **parable of the weeds** we just read highlights an important decision God made that most certainly affects the life of every single human being on earth. Jesus tells us that God is LOVE. God is PERFECT. He made the world in perfection and fills it with His Love and Truth. But, He's got an **enemy**. The devil seeks to wreck and destroy everything God has made. He plants wickedness and spreads and feeds lies and hatred around God's world. The children of God (those who believe in Him with repentant hearts) are described as **wheat / good seed**. On the other hand, the children of the devil (those who believe *his* lies and live with **unrepentant** hearts) are described as **weeds / bad seed**. Notice verses **27-28a** – God has a DECISION to make:

Matthew 13:27 "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'"

'An enemy did this,' he replied."

What's God going to do about the problem caused by his enemy? HE decides what to do – that decision is what we're going to consider today in this sermon message. That decision is recorded in **verse 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 the wheat and bring it into my barn."

"Let both grow together" – just step back and think for a moment about the ramifications of that HUGE decision. When dandelions are in bloom you can see how they grow and spread and cover huge grassy areas chocking out the grass planted there and making lawns into ugly messes. God decided to **let the weeds grow together** *with* the grass.

You can easily see how demonic religions like **Islam** have bloomed, spread, invaded and covered huge areas of the world – choking out the Gospel / persecuting God's children / creating a huge mess wherever it goes – God decided to let **both grow together**.

The WEEDS are everywhere! **Christianity** has been contaminated with many weeds too. **Canada** is blanketed with this secular / evolutionary mindset that believes there is NO God / no Truth / no innate value to human life and no consequences for how we live our lives. This type of WEED chokes our efforts to share Jesus with the world, and – it also confuses and leads astray some of God's people, even some of our children.

Every child of God is painfully aware that we're surrounded by weeds and they don't like us, or what we stand for, or the Jesus we represent. We get laughed at, ridiculed, mocked, mistreated, bullied – or worse (like some missionaries in places like Africa) robbed, beaten, raped – or worse (like the apostles and many Christians following them) tortured and KILLED – by the weeds. **And God lets them grow TOGETHER!**

We can certainly understand the **Angel's** reaction to this and their desire to take action – **verse 28b "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'"** *Let's get rid of those wretched weeds!* Unlike the angels, we descend into **sin** when we think of what the WEEDS have done (and continue to do) – we get angry. Whether or not we're aware of it, that anger is sinful because it's directed at God. It's the devil's fault – it's the wicked people led astray by him, and the depths of what fallen human beings are capable of – BUT GOD LETS THEM DO IT. **Why?!**

Some of God's people get so angry they walk away from Him – like somehow 2 wrongs will make a right. It's sheer **foolishness**. In that way it's like abortion: thinking that *"THIS"* will fix everything. NOT A CHANCE. There's a pro-life billboard that reads: **"ABORTION – one dead. One brutally wounded."** Killing the child doesn't solve anything. The mother has to carry those wounds the rest of her life. Cutting God out of your life because of what the WEEDS have done is a horrible and potentially eternal mistake that just makes everything worse.

Maybe we haven't experienced something like that. (*Maybe we have.*) But I'll bet we ALL have trouble accepting God's decision to: **let them both grow together**. Why doesn't He stop it? *Why doesn't He simply let the Angels root them out and cut them down?* The **answer is in this parable**. Can you see it? It's **verse 29**:

"No," he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them.'"

WHY does God allow these weeds to grow and thrive / hurt and choke / starve and kill – HIS PEOPLE??? The ironic answer is: **because He loves His people.**

I don't get it.

Well, Jesus' parable uses an ILLUSTRATION we all (especially the gardeners and farmers among us) can understand: ***If you go pulling up the WEEDS – you are taking a risk that some good plants might be uprooted as well.*** Normally we think it's worth the risk and go ahead pulling up the weeds. God, on the other hand, IS NOT WILLING to risk losing even one of his precious children. So, He'll let them **grow together** – He'll deal with it when the HARVEST (Judgment Day) comes so He doesn't have to risk losing a single one. **LOVE** for His people is behind His decision to *let them GROW together.*

If you look at this from a spiritual perspective God's DECISION here makes even more sense. It's miraculous, but, **weeds** become **wheat**. The Apostle Paul's experience is certainly proof of that. (*Read Acts 9 if you're not familiar with what happened.*) If God rooted him up while he was still a murdering Pharisee – *what would have been lost?*

In fact, ALL of us were weeds at some point, that's how we enter this world (see Psalm 51:5). Maybe some of you remember living life with unrepentant / unbelieving hearts – living life as weeds. But God was gracious and patient with us. By the power of the Gospel message of Jesus (in the Word and through the waters of Baptism) God CHANGED our hearts and turned us into His **wheat**. We're now **good seed** because Jesus died for us and has cleansed us from all wickedness. It's His LOVE that's behind this decision – love for His People.

Well – He should root up all the weeds that never turn into wheat!

Again, God sees the BIG picture. I don't know about your heritage – but YOU may have ancestors who were savage barbarians and thoroughly wicked people. If God uprooted all those who never get transformed into wheat – what would be lost? What of their descendants whom the Lord is waiting for? He's not willing to lose ANY – so, He'll let them GROW TOGETHER until the Harvest, and settle all things then where justice will be rendered for all.

Do you get it?

His decision to “let them grow together” is a **loving / gracious** decision. It might not *seem* that way when we're plagued by WEEDS in the form of a bully / a teacher / our boss / family members / vandals / criminals – it might not FEEL like a good decision at all, but thanks to Jesus' parable here, I hope you KNOW: It's God's LOVE for His people and Grace alone that's behind this and every single decision the Almighty LORD makes.

- When the crowds shouted, “**CRUCIFY!**” at the holy and innocent Son of God – LOVE was behind God's decision to let them carry it through.

- When TERROR strikes our world and God did not retrain the hands of wicked men (*and we could never know what He HAS restrained*) LOVE was behind God's decision to let them act.
- When SICKNESS / DISEASE doesn't retreat, but forcefully advances in the body of a loved one – LOVE is behind God's decision to let it grow.
- When the inevitable touch of DEATH comes to those we wish would never be touched by it – God's LOVE is behind the decision He made to let them go.

I know it's tough to get our heads around this, but God's LOVE is behind everything He does. **Everything** that happens is somehow for the good of His people / His Kingdom / His Wheat (*See Romans 8:28*). **God is love** and **ALL** His decisions come from a heart of LOVE. *That's simply a fact.*

I'm just thankful that HE (and no one else) gets to make the REALLY BIG DECISIONS that our lives depend upon (both here and forever).

- Aren't you glad He decided to let the **wheat** and the **weeds** grow together?
- Aren't you glad He decided to send **Jesus** to this world, even though He'd have to turn his back on Him and let Him die?
- Aren't you glad He decided to take on **human flesh** and bear the curse of all our sins?
- Aren't you glad He decided to **transform** YOU from being a weed into wheat by His power and make you part of His family?
- Aren't you glad He decided to **forgive** all your sins?
- Aren't you glad He decided to share **eternal paradise** with you?
- Aren't you glad He decided to let you grow **here** among the weeds for a short time?
- Aren't you glad He decided to give you opportunities / blessings / challenges / struggles / suffering / pain?

LOVE is behind it all. **Accept** the DECISIONS God makes – whether they make us happy or sad. He knows what He's doing and He'll straighten everything out at the Great Harvest on the Last Day. Until then – hang on / live / serve / give / testify / sacrifice / grow / thrive / suffer / die – all with thankful and repentant hearts that TRUST that God always makes right decisions. *Hang in there WHEAT – the Harvest is on it's way!!*

Amen.

And the peace of God, that transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.