

# Weeds Among the Wheat

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

## Introduction

Normally, a sermon on the parable of the **Wheat and Weeds**, is about not being judgmental. While this is one of the things Jesus is teaching in this parable, I want to look at something else, today. If we look at the parable from a different angle, we can see another lesson. If we are the wheat, what does it mean to have weeds growing up **among** us?

## Overview of the Parable

Thumbnail sketch—the farmer sows wheat seeds. While he sleeps, an enemy sows weeds. When they see the weeds, the farmer tells the servants to let them grow, because they might pull up the wheat, too. The wheat and the weeds will be separated at the harvest.

## The Parties Identified

Jesus says that the farmer is the Son of Man, Jesus Himself. The field is the world. The good seeds are His children, Christians. The weeds are sinners, non-Christians, or *sons of the evil one*. The enemy is the devil. The harvesters are the angels.

## The Action

So, Jesus has placed us in the world. The devil has placed non-Christians among us. Instead of being separated now, we will be separated at the end of time, at the judgment. The Christians will go to heaven and the non-Christians will burn in hell. Many have used this story to teach that there are Christians and non-Christians in the church and we should not be judgmental toward them, as I said before. However, according to the Apology, the field is “the world”, not the church. This teaches us about our dealings with the world, as Jesus teaches in His **HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER** in **John 17:14-19**.

## The Sower

The Farmer sows the seed. This means that Christ plants Christians. We should never think that we’re here by our own accord. We are wheat because God made us wheat. But when it comes to judgment, the non-Christian can’t blame his or her state on circumstances or the devil. God can change the heart, but people are guilty because they resist His grace.

## A Closer Look at the Weeds

Just who exactly are these weeds? The Greek word translated “weed” means specifically “darnel”, which is a weed that looks like wheat when it first grows. These are those who look like Christians but aren’t. They cause trouble, because, on the surface, you can’t tell them from us. Only after you examine their theology can you see they teach lies. This is why the third year of Confirmation will focus on being able to adequately discuss and defend the faith.

## How They Come

We must be careful because they sneak up on us. The devil plants them at night, *while his men were sleeping*. The devil takes advantage of the sleeping servants and plants the weeds in secret. He

makes his move on us when we are off guard. This is how he tempts. MARTIN LUTHER says in the **Large Catechism**: *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.*

### What Weeds Do

If we compare the parable of the SOWER from last week with this one, we see that in that parable, the weeds are the cares of this life, which choke out the crop (**Matthew 13:22**). Living among the people of this world is a constant pressure on us. They are always trying to take our faith away. If we are not careful, they will choke us out.

### Co-existing with Weeds

(Read **2 Corinthians 6:14-16a**) We use this passage to talk about how Christians should marry Christians, but Paul isn't addressing marriage here. He's talking about our dealings with the world, specifically, close dealings. It applies to marriage, but also to close friendships, business partnerships, and other close relationships. While we are not to be judgmental, we are to differentiate and not "get into bed" with them.

### Preventative—Means of Grace

So, how can we survive among the weeds? The answer is to remain vigilant. We do this through the **MEANS OF GRACE**. When we attend church, we hear the **Word** and it is active in our lives. When we receive **Communion**, the **Word** is also applied to our hearts and lives, refreshing us, and giving us strength. If we ignore these gifts of God, we grow weak and weary. Then, it's easy for the devil and the weeds to get a foothold in our lives. This leads to falling away and losing our salvation. There's a lot of talk about "staying safe" in this world today. The way to really stay safe is to hear the **Word** and partake of the **Sacrament** whenever possible. This is how we can live **AMONG THE WEEDS**.

---

*May the peace of God,  
Which passes all understanding,  
Keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

---