Final Kingdom: Wheat and Weeds Parable

Christy Penley
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Reflection & Discussion

Jesus tells a story of agricultural sabotage
Read and discuss Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43 (NIV)
24 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.
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?'
28 "'An enemy did this,' he replied.
"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'
29 "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. 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.'"…
***…**36 Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."*
37 He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.
40 "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. 42 They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

*What does this story tell us about the Kingdom of God?
*What can you understand about the seeds, the resulting crops and the Sower from what Jesus shares? What remains mysterious?
*What do you make of the one who sabotages the field and the Sowers response?

Trust the Sower
Jesus invites us to see something about how God works

*Why would allowing good and evil to coexist be beneficial?
*How have you seen letting 'both grow together' be a good thing – in your own life or the world around you?

Separating out the wheat and the weeds is not our job

*When have you wanted to do the 'weeding' for God? What was the motivation behind that feeling?
*What is the Spirit saying to you about the labeling or judging you may be doing? Spend some time letting this picture of wheat and weed growing together sink in to your heart.
*Where are you being asked to trust the Sower right now in your life?

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