

The Wheat and the Weeds

An enemy sows weeds among a farmer's wheat. The farmer lets both grow together until harvest, when they will be separated. Good and evil will coexist until judgment day.

Matthew 13:24-30 • Matthew 13:36-43

CHARACTERS: Jesus, Farmer, Servants, Enemy

THEMES: Good and evil, Patience, Final judgment, God's timing

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 uproot 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."

Jesus later explained: The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world. The good seed represents the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. 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. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

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