

Kingdom Parables – Week 2 Discussion Questions

The Wheat and the Weeds Mt. 13:24-30

Read the parable together in Matthew 13:3-9

1. Who is the planter/landowner in the story? What does this story teach us about the planter/landowner?
2. Who does the good seed represent in the story? Who are the weeds?
3. Who does the enemy represent?
4. Who do the servants of the landowner represent?
5. What does the harvest represent? Who are the harvesters?
6. Share your favorite good guy v. bad guy story (book, TV, movie, etc.). In such stories, how do we know who the good guy is? The bad guy? In our story today, when do the servants recognize the difference between the wheat and the weeds? What does this parable teach us about deciphering the difference between “wheat” and “weeds” in our world today? Why might it be an oversimplification to label people as either “good” or “bad”?
7. Where do you see evil in the world today? Why do you think God allows the world to be filled with such a mixed bag of wheat and weeds? How do you feel about the landowner’s patience? How does this parable affect your view of the presence of sin/evil in the world?
8. When the servants of the landowner discover the weeds growing among the wheat, they question the landowner about it. In what ways do we question God when we see evil/sin in the world? What does the landowner say in response? How does this help us understand the reality of sin/evil in the world?
9. Who is responsible for the harvest? Who is *not* responsible for the harvest? What does Jesus say might happen if the servants try and gather the weeds? Why do we often feel the need to “weed out” the “bad seed”? What does this parable teach us about our own responsibilities in the Kingdom? (Hint: What is the job of the wheat? What is the job of the servants?) How does this help us understand how we are supposed to act towards those we see as “weeds”?
10. Describe when/where you have seen the church and its people focus on “weeding”. What is the danger of such behavior, according to the parable? When focused on “weeding”, what are we not focused on? What practices can we cultivate that will help us focus on our own growth, rather than getting rid of perceived weeds?
11. What are some similarities you notice between the Parable of the Sower and the Four Soils and the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds? What are some differences? How do they both point toward the nature of the Kingdom of God?
12. What specific truths about the nature of God’s Kingdom does Jesus want us to understand with this parable?