

WEED PULLING ANGELS

Matthew 13:24-43

Pastor Harold Long

July 19, 2020

Memory Verse: Matthew 13:41, *The Son of Man will send his angels, weed out the thistles from his kingdom, pitch them in the trash, and be done with them.*

Matthew 13:24-33 The Message (MSG)

²⁴⁻²⁶ He told another story. "God's kingdom is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. That night, while his hired men were asleep, his enemy sowed thistles all through the wheat and slipped away before dawn. When the first green shoots appeared and the grain began to form, the thistles showed up, too.

²⁷ "The farmhands came to the farmer and said, 'Master, that was clean seed you planted, wasn't it? Where did these thistles come from?'

²⁸ "He answered, 'Some enemy did this.'

"The farmhands asked, 'Should we weed out the thistles?'

²⁹⁻³⁰ "He said, 'No, if you weed the thistles, you'll pull up the wheat, too. Let them grow together until harvest time. Then I'll instruct the harvesters to pull up the thistles and tie them in bundles for the fire, then gather the wheat and put it in the barn.'

³¹⁻³² Another story. "God's kingdom is like a pine nut that a farmer plants. It is quite small as seeds go, but in the course of years it grows into a huge pine tree, and eagles build nests in it."

³³ Another story. "God's kingdom is like yeast that a woman works into the dough for dozens of loaves of barley bread—and waits while the dough rises."

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Matthew 13:34-43 The Message (MSG)

³⁴⁻³⁵ All Jesus did that day was tell stories—a long storytelling after-noon. His storytelling fulfilled the prophecy:

I will open my mouth and tell stories;
I will bring out into the open
things hidden since the world's first day.

The Curtain of History

³⁶ Jesus dismissed the congregation and went into the house. His disciples came in and said, "Explain to us that story of the thistles in the field."

³⁷⁻³⁹ So he explained. "The farmer who sows the pure seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the pure seeds are subjects of the kingdom, the thistles are subjects of the Devil, and the enemy who sows them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, the curtain of history. The harvest hands are angels.

⁴⁰⁻⁴³ "The picture of thistles pulled up and burned is a scene from the final act. The Son of Man will send his angels, weed out the thistles from his kingdom, pitch them in the trash, and be done with them. They are going to complain to high heaven, but nobody is going to listen. At the same time, ripe, holy lives will mature and adorn the kingdom of their Father.

"Are you listening to this? Really listening?"

July 13-19, 2020 (Lectionary Readings) 7th Sunday after Pentecost-Green

Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 (UMH 854)
Romans: 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Matthew 13:34-43 The Message (MSG)

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