

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalm 86:11-17

*Teach me your way, O Lord, & I will walk in your truth. (v11)*

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness & compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came & sowed weeds among the wheat, & then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up & bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came & said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup>He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go & gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; & at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first & bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” <sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds & went into the house. & his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, & the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, & the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected & burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, & they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin & all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping & gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How does the *Isaiah* lesson connect with the *Gospel*? How does it show a model of what Jesus teaches about? *Hint: look for themes, parallel ideas, inversions, reversals, similarities, extensions, metaphors, actions, vocabulary, grammar, etc.*
2. How does *Romans 3:21-16* explain vv36-43, in other words, how is someone a righteous child of heaven?

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. When have you been a weed in the Kingdom of Heaven? What would have happened if you had been yanked out by the roots? Think of at least 5 times.
4. How does that grace & mercy that you received equip you to give the same to others?

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. We grant that church on earth will always have bad people, false believers, & the like mixed in (not to mention people who act foolishly). How does this reality make your own holiness & godliness even more important for the sake of your neighbors? *See 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Hebrews 13:16; James 4:17; 1 Peter 3:13-17; Apology (defense) of the Augsburg Confession: VII-VIII, available [bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org)*
6. Consider the counsels of *Matthew 5:38-42; Romans 12:14-21, 13:7-10; Galatians 5:16-24*; How do these demonstrate a practical way to deal with scofflaws & others who are not children of the kingdom?

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Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
Series: Whose Kingdom Is It?

07.23.23  
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Kingdom's Weeds

*Certain methods of weed control harm the good crop, too; better go easy*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Then the righteous will shine like the sun  
in the kingdom of their Father. (v43)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

My word shall accomplish that which I purpose, & succeed in the thing for  
which I sent it. (*Isaiah 55:11*)

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