

NEXT STEP: STUDY & 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

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came & sowed weeds among the wheat, & then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up & bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. . . . ^{28b}The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go & gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; . . . ^{36b}And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ ³⁷He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, & the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, & the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected & burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, & they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin & all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping & gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then 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. What connections do you find with *Matthew 18:8-17*? How about the Parable of the Sower (*Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*)?
2. Look carefully at vv38, 41, 43; what do they tell us about the boundaries/area of the Kingdom? What difference does it make if the entire world is part of the Kingdom or just the spaces controlled by Christians? See *Psalm 24:1; Romans 8:19-22; 1 Corinthians 15:25-28; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:20*

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

3. Name 5 times when you acted like a weed in the Kingdom. What would have happened if you had been pulled out & thrown in the burn pile then? How does that give you humility in your dealings with others? See *2 Peter 3:8-15; James 5:20*
4. 2020 has shown many hasty attempts & counter attempts to “root out” perceived evils. How have these attempts failed to properly distinguish between wheat & weeds (v29)?

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

5. Many people fall into utopian dreams of a pure society in which no one does anything objectionable & the objectionable people are weeded out. Marxism (communism, socialism, fascism, critical theory) is the worst example, but the only one; even Christian versions of utopia exist. How does this parable’s wisdom temper Christian response to objectionable neighbors? See *Ezekiel 18:21-32, 33:10-20; 2 Timothy 2:24; 1 Peter 1:14-17*
6. How (or not) does this parable encourage quietism (avoidance of public policy & justice) by Christians? How can your congregation work for justice, peace, mercy & so forth without falling into the ditches of political partisanship or unintended negative consequences?

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

07.19.20

Series: God Grows His Church

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

You Are a Good Seed

*God says that those who belong to Christ, who are baptized believers,
are good seed. Be patient, God takes the long view
toward the final harvest, but don't eat the seed corn...*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE:[at the end of the age] his angels...will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin & all evildoers, & they will throw them into the furnace of fire...Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. (vv40-43)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

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

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