



# Message Notes

Weeds!!!

## Matthew 13

<sup>24</sup> Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

<sup>27</sup> "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?'

<sup>28</sup> " 'An enemy did this,' he replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

<sup>29</sup> " 'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> 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.' "

**What would your first take on the parable be—if you had not yet heard Jesus' explanation?**

**What thoughts of application to your own life would leave you "wanting more" from this guy?**

**"Oh that \_\_\_\_\_!"**

**"You will know them by their \_\_\_\_\_!"**

**"There is a harvest—a day of \_\_\_\_\_!"**

**"Hmmm ... I wonder if He is saying I am wheat or \_\_\_\_\_!"**

**"Hey Jesus ..... What did you \_\_\_\_\_ by that?"**

**Matthew 13**

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

<sup>37</sup>He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

<sup>40</sup>"As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>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. <sup>42</sup>They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

**Realities of the Kingdom**

Here again Jesus is teaching the reality of the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ because He knows we will be caught off guard by him and he will get to fly under the radar. He is a wicked \_\_\_\_\_!

We are invited to be \_\_\_\_\_ of the Kingdom of God – a position of \_\_\_\_\_!

Evil will not be removed from our world now but take heart—there will be a day when \_\_\_\_\_ will tell the tale.

So what do the sons of the kingdom do in the meantime—in this evil age— "Bear \_\_\_\_\_ man, Bear \_\_\_\_\_!"

# PRAYER & DEVOTION

*Over the next week I encourage you to practice personal connection with God! Hear His refreshing words of hope as we learn to trust Him everyday! Trusting Jesus will bring positive change and deep purpose into our lives. Spending some time everyday with God in prayer and contemplation on some Bible passages is a simple, but life-changing encounter! The following schedule of scripture readings will give you an opportunity to unpack some of what God says about "The presence (often subtle) of Evil in our World— and the importance of looking at fruit."*

## **Helpful Hints:**

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on "words and phrases" which grab your heart's attention.  
Ask God, "What do You want me to hear?" "Why this word at this time?"  
"How are You inviting me to respond?"
- 4) Pray everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!  
*Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him*

## **Prayer and Devotion Guide**

January 25-30

**Monday: Ephesians 6:10-20**

Personal Notes:

**Tuesday: Matthew 16:21-28**

Personal Notes:

**Wednesday: Luke 3:7-20**

Personal Notes:

**Thursday: 1 Peter 5:8-11**

Personal Notes:

**Friday: Revelation 21:1-8**

Personal Notes:

**Saturday: Revelation 20:7-10**

Personal Notes:

## **“Fruit-bearing and Judgment”**

### A Personal and Small Group Experience

Something really caught my eye. The bible often talks about the importance of bearing fruit in one’s life. Here is the kicker – that fruit will finally be what separates the proverbial “sheep from the goats”. Jesus said, “By their fruit you will know them.” How true it is. This parable of the weeds speaks the same language—its not until the fruit of the stalk appears that you can tell what is weeds and what is wheat.

As you read through the following scriptures wrestle around with the fruit-bearing angle of each one and also the “separation of sheep and goats” judgment kind of angle. Really sink into these verses there are numerous gems here. It would probably be good to read them more than once. Pray as a group for the Holy Spirit to fill you and open the scriptures to you.

### **Thought and Discussion Prompts**

- Where do you see the separation of “wheat and weeds” (judgment) in the verses? Discuss the picture painted or image used for this. What happens to the weeds.
- What does “good fruit”(wheat) look like in these verses? What does bad fruit (weeds) look like in these verses?
- This is an important question. How does one become a “good fruit” bearer? What is the key? To what extent do you find yourself “wanting “ to bear good fruit? Where does this “want” lead you?
- Where do each of you sense “hope and joy” in these verses? Search for what God is giving you today in His word.

### **John 15:1-12**

### **Galatians 5:16-25**

### **Prayer Prompts:**

- Notice what people have said during your study and prayer for each other according to the needs you have heard.
- Include prayers of worship and praise for the hope and joy of being His fruit-bearers.