

What's Your Story? Week 5: Doubt

Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. ²⁷"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?'

²⁸"'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

²⁹"'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. ³⁰Let 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.' " ³⁶Then 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."

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

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

I. The Sowing of the Tares

- Satan sows tares out of _____ for God.
- Satan's goal is to _____ the church and _____ the church.
- Satan's chief tool for deception is _____.
- Counterfeits shouldn't be an argument _____ Christianity but an argument _____ it.

II. Growing of the Tares

- Christians are not called to be _____.
- Christians are not called to weed out the tares but to _____ out the _____. (Matthew 5:16)

God doesn't always remove the weeds in our lives; removing weeds weakens, but living with weeds strengthens.

Living among the tares should challenge us to go _____ into the _____.

Ephesians 3:17-19 (New Living Translation)

Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

III. Knowing of the Tares

- God will harvest when the crop is _____.
- You may fool those who _____ the seed and those who _____ the seed, but you will not fool those who come to _____ the harvest. (Revelation 4:14-15)

Preparing for the Harvest

1. _____ yourself.

2 Corinthians 13:5-6.

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.

Romans 8:16

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

- If Christ is in me there will be an _____ witness as well as an _____ witness.

2. Don't let counterfeits keep you from the _____.

- _____ and _____ validate the necessity of an original.

Ephesians 1:13-14

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

3. Admit your _____.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

John 1:12

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—