

Response Guide: “The Parable of the Weeds”

For week of 5/17/20

Scripture:

The Parable of the Weeds

24 Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. **25** But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. **26** When 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 uproot the wheat with them. **30** 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.’”

Questions for Discussion:

1.) Pastor Jonathan shared in his message that for now, the weeds and the wheat have to coexist. He shared that it can be difficult to stop *judgment* from taking root in our lives.

Do you see judgment as being a problem in the church? How have judgmental mindsets influenced you?

2.) Judgment in today’s culture has become an almost exclusively negative term when applied to spirituality. But, in John 7:24, Jesus teaches to “Stop judging by mere appearances, but to judge *correctly*.” To simply be passive to evil things taking place in the world is not godly, and it is not Christ’s intent when he teaches this parable.

What do you see as the difference between sinful judgment and judging a situation in a healthy way? How have you seen Christians slide to either passivity or superior thinking when trying to walk this line?

3.) Right now, the weeds and the wheat live together. But one day, God will separate them and gather his people to himself. In the meantime, we are called to live out our *identity in Christ*. It’s easy to get lost in the weeds and let the culture and mindsets surrounding us shape our lives.

How can you continue to live and engage with people who do not share your values, but still maintain your identity in Jesus?

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Prayer:

Spend some time praying for God to overcome the areas in your heart that are holding on to sinful judgment. Pray for the discernment to judge *rightly*, and for the grace and endurance to keep your identity grounded in Christ, not the other influences around you.