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Let Both of Them Grow Together . . . . . . Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, or Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

In your steadfast love give me life, that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth. Forever, O Lord, your word is fixed in the heavens. {Psalm 119:88-89]

A PARABLE AT the beginning of Chapter 13 of Matthew concerns the sower as he went out to sow, but some of the seeds fell in not very desirable places. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Today we are going to harvest our crop. Jesus tells us in today's parable that weeds are growing in the wheat.

HE PUT ANOTHER parable before them saying. "The kindom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also." {Matthew 13:24-26]

LET'S LOOK AT the weeds first. The farmer/gardeners among us may raise a suspicious eyebrow at not pulling out the weeds until harvest. But consider the weeds that have grown up in the wheat field are an annual grass that looks very much like wheat. Distinguishing one from another in the early stages of growth is nearly **impossible.** As the plants mature, the roots of weeds and wheat ***intertwine*** and become almost inseparable.

GOD DOES HIS good job constantly, sowing the good seed in the world and establishing His church in Wamego and all around different countries. But the enemy, the devil, is always ready to disturb and to sabotage God's good work.

THE DEVIL WAS very active in Jesus' time, trying to disturb Jesus' ministry. The devil is a real spirit, and an angel that fell from his original status. But he is still active, we cannot ignore him. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat.

JESUS SHOWS US God's plan and how God handles this situation. When the owner's workers wanted to pull up the weeds, the owner said: "No because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until 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 the barn."

IT IS IMPOSSBLE to pull up the weeds without damaging the wheat. The roots are mixed down in the soil in the form of family relationships and by friendships.

GOD'S MAIN GOAL is to save, and not condemn. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." {John 3:16-17] He was reconciled with mankind by Jesus'death and resurrection. He spreads the Good News as a good seed in His field , the world. The seeds need time to grow and to produce fruits.

GOD KNOWS THE right time for everything. In spite of the rapid growth of weeds, He is patient. ***When it is time for the harvest, He will send His angels to separate the weeds from the wheat. The weeds will be thrown into the fire, but the wheat will be collected in GOD'S BARN.***

THEN HE LEFT the crowds and went into the house. And the disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."
He says:

- The one who sows the good seed=***the Son of Man***
- The field=***the world***
- The good seed=***the children of the kingdom***
- The weeds=***the children of the evil ones***
- The enemy=***the devil***
- The harvest=***the end of age***
- The reapers=***the angels***

THIS IS OUR Comfort: God knows His children. God knows our heart.
"We shall fear, love, and trust in God above all things," explains Luther in the First commandment.. He only is our God and Father through Jesus Christ. Our hope is in Him. He will gather the good seed and bring it into His barn!

Amen

A Spiritual Writing Meditation
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May Loren's love and passion for God's word, shine through his words as he encourages all of us to grow in grace. Please enjoy ***The Faith Focus****; a series featuring spiritual writings from Loren.*