

GROWING FAITHFULLY AMONG THE WEEDS

Brad Driedger - Oct. 12, 2025

Matthew 13:24–30 (NLT)

Here is another story Jesus told: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field.²⁵ But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away.²⁶ When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew.²⁷ “The farmer’s workers went to him and said, ‘Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?’²⁸ “ ‘An enemy has done this!’ the farmer exclaimed. “ ‘Should we pull out the weeds?’ they asked.²⁹ “ ‘No,’ he replied, ‘you’ll uproot the wheat if you do. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.’ ”

Matthew 13:36–43 (NLT)

Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, “Please explain to us the story of the weeds in the field.”³⁷ Jesus replied, “The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed.³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one.³⁹ The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels.⁴⁰ “Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world.⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.⁴² And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!

There are 2 sowers

THE SON OF MAN - Jesus

THE EVIL ONE - the devil

There are 2 seeds

Wheat - the people and ideas of God’s kingdom.

Weeds - the people and ideas that belong to the evil one.

Matthew 13:29-30

“ ‘No,’ he replied, ‘you’ll uproot the wheat if you do.’³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest.

1. THERE IS A SPIRITUAL BATTLE

Ephesians 2:1–2 (NLT)

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

Some examples of weeds:

- Wolves disguised as sheep (false teachers)

Matthew 7:15-16 NLT

“Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. ¹⁶ You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?”

- Sin disguised as freedom

Galatians 5:13 (NLT)

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

- Love of money disguised as stewardship

1 Timothy 6:9–10 (NLT)

But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

- Religious activity disguised as relationship

Matthew 15:8–9 (NLT)

‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁹ Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.’”

- Pluralism disguised as faith

John 14:6 (NLT)

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

Acts 4:12 (NLT)

There is salvation in no one else! ...

- Deconstruction disguised as discovery

2. BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED

Galatians 5:22–23 (NLT)

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Matthew 5:14–16 (NLT)

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

IF WE WANT TO BE A PLANT THAT BLOOMS - WE NEED ROOTS!

Colossians 2:6–7 (NLT)

And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.⁷ Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

3. GOD’S PATIENCE IS GREAT BUT HIS JUSTICE IS SURE**2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)**

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Matthew 13:40-42

“Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world.⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.⁴² And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

4. GOD REWARDS THE RIGHTEOUS**Matthew 13:30 (NIV)**

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.’ ”