

Proper 11 (16)

The Year of Saint Matthew, Year A

Jul 19, 2026: Weeds and Wheat Growing Together

Letting go of judgment is very hard to achieve. I am particularly prone to instant judgments. It is as though I have been granted some special insight or gift of knowing. I wish! A lot of it is a response to fear. I want to get rid of what is alien, different, and unknown. This kind of judgement is counterfeit. Judgement belongs to God alone, and his judgement is covered in love. As the Parable suggests under human snap judgement much that is good winds up being destroyed. Some nurses recently put me through a class on how to breathe properly. I never thought one would need a lesson in breath. However, it is amazing what they accomplished with me. First, and most important, they said slow down. That would be a good lesson from this parable, too. Take deep slow breaths and even slower breathing out. It also Slows the tempo of your mind and not only does it help keep your oxygen levels up, but it gives the whole perspective of your situation a better, less fearful context. In this state snap judgments lose their appeal and one feels invited to wait and watch, one step at a time. Remember always to watch for the glimmer of God's Kingdom in our midst.

"There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?" - James 4:12 (NKJV)

— Bo Thompson

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The parable of the weeds

13:24

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,

13:25

but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away.

13:26

So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

13:27

And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?'

13:28

He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'

13:29

But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.

13:30

Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

13:36

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."

13:37

He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man;

13:38

the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one,

13:39

and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.

13:40

Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.

13:41

The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers,

13:42

and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

13:43

Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Image: “Wheat and Weeds Growing Together”, Courtesy of the Orthodox Church in America, Artist Unknown.