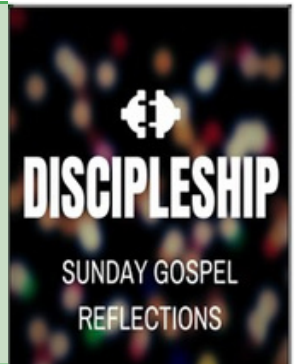


In preparation for July 19, 2026: Sixteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Theme - Parables: Simple Stories, Eternal Truths

Verse for reflection: “He spoke to them only in parables to fulfill what had been said through the prophets.”

Matthew 13:24 -43 (Verses 34-35)



Adults -

1. In the parable of the weeds, Jesus teaches that good and evil grow together until the final judgment. How can you better discern what is wheat (God’s work) and what is weed (the enemy’s influence) in your own heart?
2. In the second parable, Jesus shows that the Kingdom starts small but grows into something unexpectedly large and sheltering. What “mustard seed” has God planted in your life that seems small now but has the potential to grow?
3. In the third parable about yeast, Jesus is teaching that the kingdom works quietly, invisibly, and powerfully—transforming everything it touches. How is God calling you to be a quiet, steady influence for His Kingdom in your home, workplace, or community?

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Impatience with God’s timing, doubt that God can grow something significant in us, not understanding the value of hidden work.

Teens -

1. Why do you think Jesus used stories (parables) instead of just giving people direct answers? Have you ever understood something better because someone explained it through a story or example? What kinds of “messages” or “truths” are teens hearing from the world right now? What truth do you think Jesus was trying to show people through these stories?
2. In the parable, the weeds and wheat grow together for a while. Why do you think God allows good and evil to exist at the same time? What are some “weeds” that can grow in a teenager’s life and pull them away from God?
3. Jesus says the Kingdom of God starts small. Why do you think small acts matter so much? What is one small thing you could do that might make a big impact on someone else?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Impatience with God’s timing when life feels unfair or confusing.

Children -

1. What helps your faith grow? What are the weeds in your life that choke out your faith?
2. What power made the mustard seed grow into the largest plant? How do you care for your faith so it can grow? Do you think it is important to grow in your understanding of being a disciple to become a good disciple of Jesus?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Not being aware of things that may hurt our faith. Taking faith for granted.

