

GROWING IN THE MIXED FIELD

Let us prayer

Heavenly Father, open our hearts today. As we look at Your Word, weed out the distractions, fears, and doubts that clutter our minds. Help us to grow exactly where You have planted us, trusting Your timing and Your ultimate plan. Speak to us now. Amen.

The Word of God: Matthew 13:24-30

Jesus told them another parable: *The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared."

The owner's servants came to him and said, "Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where did these weeds come from?"

"An enemy did this,"* he replied.

The servants asked him, *Do you want us to go and pull them up?"

"No,"he answered, *""because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest..."

The Illusion of a Perfect Environment

We often think that spiritual growth happens in a perfect environment. We believe that if we love God, pray enough, and make good choices, our lives will become peaceful, clean, and problem-free.

But Jesus shatters this illusion. He describes a field where good seed and bad weeds grow together. In ancient times, this weed was called *darnel*. In its early stages, darnel looks *exactly* like wheat. You cannot tell them apart until they are fully grown.

This is the reality of our lives:

- * We live in a world where beauty and brokenness live side by side.

- * We work in environments where honesty and toxicity share the same space.

- * Even inside our own hearts, our desire to love God lives right next to our old struggles and doubts.

If you are waiting for all the "weeds" in your life to disappear before you start growing spiritually, you will be waiting forever. True spiritual growth happens *in the middle of the mess.

A Story from Brandon: When Weeds Invade Our Peace

A few years ago, I was serving in a college town named Brandon, in central Canada. One day, I went with my ministry team to visit a mother and daughter who had newly immigrated from Taiwan.

In Taiwan, their lives were incredibly busy. They worked around the clock and made a lot of money. But when they moved to this quiet Canadian city, they told me with bright eyes: "Pastor, we used to be too busy. Now that we are here, we want to live a simpler life. We want to focus all our energy on our spiritual growth and get closer to God."

What a beautiful desire! This was a perfect "good seed." Their hearts were ready to bear fruit for God.

But life did not go as planned. Soon after, they made some local business investments. Instead of bringing them a peaceful, simple life, these investments turned into a disaster. They faced endless financial troubles, legal conflicts, and stress.

They were deeply heartbroken and confused. They looked at me and asked, Pastor, our only heart was to focus on God and grow spiritually. Why did God let this happen to us? Where did all these troubles come from?

An Enemy Did This

The confusion of this mother and daughter is exactly the same confusion the servants had in the parable: *"Sir, didn't you sow good seed? Where then did these weeds come from?"*

Jesus gives a very direct answer in verse 28: An enemy did this.

When you make a decision to love God and focus on your spiritual life, do not expect the enemy to sit back and watch. The devil hates your spiritual growth. Often, while you are "sleeping"—when you think life is finally safe and peaceful—the enemy secretly comes and sows seeds of trouble, financial loss, sickness, or conflict into your life.

The financial troubles this mother and daughter faced did not mean God had rejected them. It did not mean their desire to love God was wrong. It simply meant they were living in a real world where wheat and weeds coexist.

The Trap of the Premature Pull

When the servants saw the weeds, their immediate reaction was: Let us go and pull them up right now!

Isn't that exactly how we react to pain? When trouble hits, when a difficult person invades our peace, or when we face financial loss, we want a quick fix. We want the weed pulled out immediately.

But the Master says, "No. If you pull the weeds now, you might destroy the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest."

I told that mother and daughter in Brandon: If you spend all your time, energy, and emotions fighting this legal battle with bitterness, anger, and anxiety, you will destroy your own peace and your spiritual life. The enemy wants to use this trouble to choke your faith. Do not let the weeds change your nature as wheat.

Sometimes, God does not remove the trouble immediately because He cares more about the depth of your roots than the comfort of your environment. If life is always easy, our faith stays on the surface. But when we face a storm, we learn how to hold tightly to God's promises.

Our Source of Hope: The Harvest is Coming

This parable gives us radical hope for two reasons:

First, the weeds do not get the final say. The Master said, "Let both grow together until the harvest." The mess is temporary. A day of justice, clarity, and total restoration is coming. God will deal with the weeds perfectly in His time.

Second, the burden is off your shoulders. You do not have to be the manager of the universe. You do not have to break your own heart trying to fix things outside of your control. Your only job is to be the wheat.

A weed cannot change the DNA of the wheat. The trouble in your life cannot stop the destiny God has for you. If you feel surrounded by weeds today, take a deep breath. Keep your roots deep in Christ, keep growing, and trust that the Master of the harvest has everything under control.

Amen.