

Week Two – Series on Parables of Jesus

Weeds (Matt. 13:22, 13:24)

Presented by Jimmy Batchelor

Jimmy chose to focus this study on the topic of weeds in our personal lives (Matt 13:22) and weeds that can grow in the church itself (Matt. 13:24. A Weed is defined by Webster as a wild plant growing on cultivated ground. Weeds are undesirable and unwanted.

Matt. 13:24 (NIV) states, “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.”

Examples of weeds sown by the enemy among God’s people, his church, are listed in Proverbs 6:16-19. “These are the things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies, and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.” New Testament scriptures include: Galatians 5:15, Galatians 5:19-21 and James 3:16.

The weed-killer for these undesirable weeds is to walk in the Spirit. See Galatians 5:14 and Proverbs 17:14. Proverbs 20:3 instructs us to avoid strife. Proverbs 10:22 indicates hatred stirs up strife. To love one another as Christ instructed us is the effective weed killer.

Gossip in a church can be likened to dandelions in a field. Slander spreads very quickly. Proverbs 11:13 states, “A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.”

John 8 gives us an example of the attitude of Jesus Christ regarding speaking evil of others. The Pharisees brought to Jesus a sinful woman. They wanted Jesus to condemn her to death by stoning. Instead he stooped, wrote on the ground and said, “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” The crowd was silenced and drifted away, knowing that none of them were without sin. Matthew 7:1-5 teaches us the folly of judging and condemning one another.

False doctrines sown in the church are another type of weed. Matthew 7:15-21 warns us to beware of false prophets. Specifically pointed out were those who practice homosexuality and those who make merchandise in the house of God as they are commissioned to preach the gospel alone, not “fleece” the flock of God.

In Galatians 1:6-9 Paul admonished his hearers that if he or an angel of Heaven should preach another gospel other than the one preached to them, let him be accursed. See I Timothy 6:3-4. Furthermore, Paul condemned ministers who fail to correct the people of God who go astray. II Timothy 3:16, 17, II Timothy 2:4, and Hebrews 12:6-9. I Timothy 4:1-3 warns of ministers with seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, forbidding to marry and commanding to abstain from certain meats.

The weed-killer to deal with these false doctrines is to study the word as instructed in II Timothy 3:15. See also Ephesians 4:14. Acts 17:11 indicates the Bereans were of noble character, for they received

the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. See also Colossians 2:16 – 23.

In regards to weeds in our “personal garden,” we were admonished to sow good seed rather than sow to our flesh as we reap what we sow. Galatians 6:7, 8. II Timothy 2:16 instructs us to shun profane babblings (or talking and jesting too much). The weed killer is to bridle our tongues. Psalm 39:1, I will sin not with my tongue. Another weed mentioned is being “puffed up.” We are instructed to humble ourselves. Using profanity is a weed, as well as anger (especially road rage!). Psalms 101:3 instructs us to “set no wicked thing before our eyes.” We must be careful about the spirit of entertainment as Hollywood can change one’s thinking, promote situational ethics and make Christians look foolish and dumb. Cursing, nudity, murder and all sins of the flesh are portrayed as good on the TV. Children can be turned away from Christianity when it is portrayed as “dumb” causing them to also hate and ridicule Christian children.

We are warned of the weed called a “root of bitterness” by which many are being defiled. Although we are wronged by a brother or sister, we must learn to “let it go” because we cannot afford to allow a root of bitterness to grow. See Ephesians 4:31 and 5:2. Pleasures of this life, cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches are roots that choke the good seed. See Luke 8:14, Proverbs 10:19, and Hebrews 11:20. Luke 14:20 warns that the little foxes will spoil the vine. Little foxes could include simply hanging out with the wrong people who influence us toward the vices and habits that are detrimental to our spiritual life and growth. In conclusion, it was stressed that ridding our hearts of weeds continually will allow the good fruits of the Spirit to come to maturity in our lives.

