

Topic: The weed and the wheat
Text: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-46

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who has brought us together”. Amen

The text for meditation for this evening is from the Gospel of Matthew 13:24-30, 36-46, which I read before. Let us pray: “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, Oh Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.” Amen

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Dear friends in Christ; last Sunday, Jesus said through the parable of the seed, that there are four fields where the seed falls. And we can call these fields; hearts. This Sunday, Jesus Christ speaks us about the same seed. This seed sprout and produces wheat. He says the owner in the parable is God, the field is the world, crops are the people. And He meant all people in their infinite variety and variation of responses Jesus says in the text that the wheat does not grow alone.

Beside of it also grows darnel or weed. No matter how we call it. The matter of fact is that these are weedy plants that grow in grain fields. And Jesus also says that we should not remove this vicious plant. No yet.

In Jesus' time, the separation of the weed and the wheat was done after the harvest. At that time the chaff's wheat was separated from the weeds. The weeds then were thrown into the fire. The growth of weeds among the wheat was a headache for the farmers, and it was a double duty for them. It required patience and the valuable lesson that these malicious plants should live with the wheat until harvest.

In order to grasp this parable we need to talk a little bit about the people of Israel. Indeed, God had made them a holy nation, a special people of God, but not in order that they separate themselves from other nations nor despise and condemn them.

God made them His people, but they were going to be a "light to the nations." The feeling of superiority led them to be arrogant and hypocrite. They considered themselves better than others for their own merits. They became slaves of the law, trying to accomplish it altogether, but it was not possible. This is the reason that they questioned Jesus at all the time for being with sinners. They ask themselves, “What kind of Messiah is this that He spends time and eats with sinners?

In the parable; the servants ask to the owner, when they found out that there were weeds among the wheat, "Do you want us to go out and gather up the weed? I can see them saying that with a little enthusiasm. Maybe some excitement. Who does not like a good witchhunt? The solution of the servants is simple and promises immediate satisfaction; find the weeds and get rid of them.

Weed-pulling has always had its fascination for some Christians. All of us have done it, some are better and more practiced at it than others, and few specialize in it. Jesus never practiced nor permitted this method, but we must confess; it has appeal for us all. Weed-pulling comes by different names today, but it can be any method we use to judge or condemn someone else. It is making church rules and then using them to keep the fellowship only to those who are like-minded and forgetting the supreme law that is

Love. It is to write church doctrine and then label anyone who does not agree unchristian. It is the snide suggestion that if people do not practice the faith as we; they are unbiblical.

The servant solution, "find the weeds and get rid of them." Its assumption is always that weeds are only found in the lives of others. But note that the owner says, No! "Do not remove them." John in his gospel says, "¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." John 3:17.

At harvest Day, the separation will take place, but now is not the time. Now we are in a time of grace. It is a time for repentance and to come to the knowledge that through Jesus we are forgiven. It is a time to grow and produce the fruits of the Gospel. It is a time to bring the good news to the nations.

Jesus did not separate Himself from the people of this world. But, instead He became flesh and came down from heaven. And until the end of His earthly life, many did not see Him differently from others. They saw Him as a man or a prophet. Through the eyes of His disciples we see Him as prophet, Saviour, God and Man. "He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him," says Isaiah (53:2), yet, His fruit was salvation, and the redemption of the sinful world.

We are "wheat seed" of the gospel and we need to grow together with the "weeds of the world". The difference is that we are not going to be crushed together at the final harvest. The more wheat seeds we spread on the world more wheat will come. But never forget that God is the One who make the plant grows. Sowing is our duty and not to destroy. So, let us sow the seed of the gospel. Let us care for the plant. Let us be careful, as well, in how we use words and actions toward others, because we can be destroying, instead of sowing.

Our congregation has a challenge ahead of it. And it is to spread the seed of the Word of God, not only in Strathroy, but also in London. Through VBS we have the opportunity to spread the gospel to children, and our Lord in due time will make it grow. By the grace of God, now Grace has a church building. It is wonderful that this place was gotten at a low price compared with the money that you had planned to spend there. We have the opportunity to help our church daughter to bring the gospel in Strathroy and surrounding areas for the glory of God alone.

For believers in Christ chance do not exist. God has put us here for one purpose and it is to spread the seed of salvation in Strathroy, and London and if it is possible in other areas.

We may not all agree in the work that we do in Strathroy, because this means more work for the pastor, more money and more time. And this is true. But I ask, "Are we going to put a price to the Word of God? No!

Our task here at this moment in our lives is to sow the Good News of Jesus Christ and root ourselves more and more into His Word, and Sacraments. We need to nourish ourselves with His Word and Sacrament in order to grow and bring forth abundant mercy, peace, forgiveness and love.

The seed that Satan spread in the Garden of Eden grew in the hearts of Adam and Eve. The Lord said that because they ate from the tree that He commanded not to eat, "cursed is the ground because of you" and therefore "will produce thorns and thistles" (Gen. 3:17-18).

Jesus says that the enemy is Satan who is responsible for planting weeds. The planting and the production of weeds in the world is not casual or isolated. Nor is the result of chance. It is the result of the active work of the devil. This is something that we should not lose sight. The devil is sowing and he is working to cause damage. In the same way that there are people who are planting the seed of the gospel, there are also people who are planting evil seeds to destroy the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Most of the governments of this world have created anti-Christian laws, which are contrary to the Word of God, and these laws are spreading the weed of the discord among the people. This weed is spread everywhere, in every field. And the human heart is the land where weeds grow (Mat. 15:18-20) and from there spread over the areas where mankind walks.

Satan also sows discord in the sound doctrine. He is planting false doctrines that they may seem innocent, but the fruit these doctrines produce is bitter and poisonous. To distinguish this is important and necessary. We must sharpen our sight in order to distinguish what is true doctrine and false doctrine. We should not condemn these makers of false doctrines, because only God is the judge, but we should stay away from these false doctrines. When Scriptures speaks of not judging it is not cautioning against making judgments and decision about any behaviour. It is saying that we are not to condemn anyone.

Let us not quickly use the label “non-Christian” if another’s convictions do not match ours. We should measure life always by the Scripture, not our experience; that is God’s rule of Judgement. In the same Christian Church there are false brethren, but we cannot remove them or point the fingers at them, because we know the hearts of no one, and we too are going to be judged. But, we can be a strong and a healthy wheat. Let us concentrate in ourselves, not in others. We should grow and bear fruit.

As we heard in the Parable of the sower last Wednesday, we should continue planting the Word of God. But we must not forget that sin still dwells in us, and we should not consider ourselves better than others. The owner’s solution in the parable is to concentrate on the wheat, on what is good. Let God do the judging. Keep your attention on the wheat’s growth. Be patient with all others until the harvest. Be also patient with yourself until God makes His final determination. In Jesus’ name. Amen

“The peace of God which surpasses all human understanding keeps your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour”. Amen