

THE STORYTELLER

Week 10: Living Among the Weeds

Sermon Series:

For 13 weeks, we are going to unpack the parables of Jesus, investigating the parables from the Gospel of Matthew and Luke.

Jeff defined a parable as a story that explains our reality giving a new or greater understanding of the world around us. Specifically, concerning God and our relationship with God. Key to parables is their depth and layers, they are stories that come alongside our own circumstances.

As we go through this series remember Jeff's 4 steps to consider: 1. What is the context in which the parable is told? 2. What are the indispensable plot elements? 3. What was the meaning at that moment, in that setting? 4. How does that meaning adapt to our cultural setting today?

The purpose of this sermon series is to draw us in, pique our curiosity, and sit with Jesus. You are invited to pull up a chair ask questions, be confused, wonder, and listen to the parable of Jesus.

Message Focus:

Living Among the Weeds

The Passages: Matthew 13:24-43

Reflection Questions:

1.) What does this parable teach us about God? What do seeds produce? How do we know good seeds from weeds? (Read Mat. 7:15-20, 12:33-37) What does good fruit look like? (Read Gal.5:16-26) What does the Gospel of John say about recognizing followers of Jesus? (Read John 13:31-35) How then does our church become like good seeds?

2.) Read Mat.11:7-15, Mat. 13:1-9... reread Mat. 13:36-43. How do all these passages end? There are seven other sayings from Jesus in the N.T. that end with this phrase, "Let anyone with ears listen!" (Mark 4:9, 23; 7:16; Luke 8:8; 14:35; Rev 2:7; 13:9.) What stands out in each of these passages? Why do you think Jesus would use such a saying for these particular passages, are they related? Should we pay closer attention to these sayings, why or why not?

3.) Between last Sunday's sermon and today's sermon reread v.41-43 and v.47-50. Discuss the parallels between these two parables and how they are different. How do you think Jesus' audience heard these parables? How do these parables inform our understanding of the kingdom of heaven, and how do they challenge our understanding? How do these passages also fit with the other kingdom of heaven passages found in Matt. 13:24-50?