

Sermon: 19/07/26

This morning I would like us to explore how God's Kingdom operates in a broken world.

It seems to me that both the Parable of the Weeds and Paul's letter to the Romans offer a profound message of patience.

They teach us to trust God with the final harvest and anchor our hope in the Spirit rather than present struggles.

We live in a confusing and beautiful tension as followers of Christ, confronting the reality of living in a world where good and evil grow side by side.

On one hand, we experience the deep, transformative love of God, the undeniable presence of the Holy Spirit, and the breathtaking beauty of His creation.

On the other hand, we open our eyes to a world filled with suffering, injustice, and persistent evil.

We look around, and like the servants in Matthew's Gospel, we ask God the inevitable question:

Lord, where did all this brokenness come from? And why don't you do something about it right now?

The Parable of the Weeds

In the Gospel of [Matthew 13](#), Jesus shares the parable of the wheat and the weeds. The sower plants good seed, but an enemy sows weeds in the night. When the servants ask if they should pull up the weeds, the master gives a surprising command:

"No... Let both grow together until the harvest".

We often look at our world, our communities, and even our own hearts, and we want to start pulling up weeds. We want to eradicate evil immediately.

But Jesus calls us to a posture of radical patience. He reminds us that judgment belongs to Him and His angels, not to us.

In our limited human sight, we might accidentally uproot the wheat in our rush to destroy the weeds. Jesus assures us that at the end of the age, the evildoers will be separated, and *"the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father"*.

Then we have the profound message of [Romans 8](#), which addresses the very reason we need this patience. Paul reminds us that we are no longer slaves to fear, but we have received the "Spirit of adoption" by which we cry out, "Abba, Father". We are heirs of God,

Sermon: 19/07/26

groaning inwardly as we wait for our ultimate adoption and the redemption of our bodies.

Paul writes, *"The creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed"*.

Creation itself groans in the pains of childbirth. We, too, groan as we navigate the mixed field of this present age, surrounded by both the beauty of God's creation and the thorns of a fallen world.

But notice the beautiful, intimate truth Paul exposes next. We are not groaning alone. Paul writes that the **Spirit** helps us in our weakness, interceding for us with groans that words cannot express.

Think back to the field of wheat and weeds. Sometimes, looking at the brokenness around us—and within us—leaves us utterly speechless.

We see the injustice, the sickness, and the division, and our vocabulary fails. We ask,

'Lord, how do I pray for this? Do I pray for judgment? Do I pray for deliverance? What is Your will?'

The Parable of the Weeds

In those exact moments of paralysis, when you we have no words left, the Holy Spirit takes our wordless sighs and presents them to the Father as perfect prayers. The Sower who planted us in the field has also placed His very Spirit inside us. We do not have to carry the burden of fixing the world, nor do we have to figure out the perfect formula to reach God's ear. Even when our faith feels like a bruised reed, the Spirit is praying *FOR* us, aligning our deepest hurts with the Father's perfect, ultimate plan of redemption."

And it is "in this hope we were saved".

We do not yet see the full harvest, nor do we see the complete eradication of evil. We are called to wait patiently and eagerly.

So how can we apply these two today?

Well, firstly, I think they call us to humility and patience. We are not the harvesters. The field is the world, and our job is to grow as faithful wheat.

We should leave the judgment to God, trusting that the Son of Man will ultimately bring perfect justice and make all things right.

Sermon: 19/07/26

Secondly, I think they call us to **live by the Spirit**, not the flesh. Because we have the "*first fruits of the Spirit*," we are empowered to put to death the misdeeds of the body and live as children of the light.

So as we leave church today, let's remember that we are children of God, heirs to a glorious kingdom.

And though we groan in this present life, we do so with a secure and confident hope.

The day will come when the wheat will be gathered into the barn, and the righteous will shine like the sun.

Until then, we are called to walk in the Spirit, extending grace, and waiting patiently for the glory to be revealed.

Amen.

The Parable of the Weeds