

GRACEPOINT CHURCH

Weekly Devotional

**Rooted and Rising:
Parables of Growth, Grace and Harvest**

When There Are Weeds in the Wheat – Zamani Sikupela – 13.9.2026

Scripture

Matthew 13:24-30;36-43

Open your mind and heart as you read the passage of Scripture aloud and then again quietly to yourself. Listen for God's word to you.

Spend some time in worship.

Observation

Matthew 13:24-30

Many of Jesus' listeners would have been familiar with His stories about farm life. In this passage, He described the enemy who tried to destroy the sower's crop. The sower had used good seed, but the enemy sowed weeds amongst the wheat. In this parable, the wheat represents the people of God who were corrupted by certain worldly ways. Tares look very much like wheat until the ears of both plants form. The tares could well have been dandelion, which was poisonous. The farmer told his workers to leave the tares among the wheat in case they pulled up wheat at the same time. They would sort out the problem during the harvest when it would be easier to identify the weeds.

Matthew 13:36-43

Once again, Jesus explained this parable to His disciples. The field symbolised the world; the good seed represented God's people; the tares were those who seemed to belong to God but were false believers. God will sort out true believers from false believers at the end of the age. The enemy who sowed the tares signifies Satan. The reapers are the angels whom Jesus will send out in the end. The weeds will be harvested and will be thrown into the furnace, whilst the wheat will be put into God's barn

Icebreaker:

Have you ever spent time on a farm?

What special memories do you have of that stay?

Briefly share one of them. If you have not, what type of farm would you like to visit? Why?

Application

THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

PBO Reg. No. 18/11/13/690

GRACEPOINT METHODIST CHURCH

Tel: 011 702 4600 Emergency no.: 076 498 2088 WhatsApp Connect: 071 892 9382 E-mail: info@gracepoint.co.za

P.O. Box 1408, Lonehill 2062. 125 Duncan Road, Glenferness, 2191

Rev. Ian France, Rev. Linda Magengenene-Moyake

www.gracepoint.co.za



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In this parable:

We learn about the coexistence of opposites: How would you respond to someone who tells you they don't go to church because it is full of hypocrites? How can you help that person understand the parable of the wheat and the tares? How do you feel about the church yourself? Do you 'walk the talk'? Are you aware of people who don't? (Don't name them). Are you prepared to spend time with them (perhaps on the golf course or at a social gathering) to help them realise what they are doing?

The necessity of patience: How patient are you? What, in your world, frustrates you because progress seems to be so slow? Are you prepared to wait for God's time, in any given instance, or do you take action to speed things up? How would you feel if that matter were solved instantaneously? Would you value it as much as you would if you had waited for it to blossom fully? Has anything happened in your life when you forced the timing to bring something to completion? Was it successful or not?

Self-Scrutiny: Would you describe yourself as weed or wheat? Why? How would you carry out self-examination to answer this question? Whom does God see in the secret, private places of your life? Perhaps you are a bit of each? How can God help you to become authentic in your faith?

Final Separation: In the end, God will carry out the separation of weeds and wheat Himself. Only He can judge which is which. How does this make you feel? How can you share the message of Christ with those who may not know, so they come to Christ and can be judged as wheat? Christ alone is the standard by which we measure our own faith walk. How are you doing? How can the group help you with the struggles you have mentioned during this session?

Prayer

Pray for those you know who are struggling with the issue of their faith. Pray they may have a fresh encounter with Jesus so they may accept and follow Him without reservation. Pray for one another regarding the issues raised during your discussion time and any other needs of the group.

Service

As you go through this week, take time to assess whether you are wheat or weeds, and pray for God's help to enable you to 'walk the talk'.

Bibliography

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/matthew-13/>



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