

July 19, 2026 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Living as Wheat in a Weedy World (Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43; Romans 8:12–25)

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Today, we are called to reflect on “How do we live as wheat in a world where weeds are real?”

Last Sunday, we reflected on the Parable of the Sower. Jesus spoke about the same good seed falling on four different kinds of soil. The difference was not in the seed but in the condition of the soil. Some produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.

Today, Jesus tells another farming story. This time, the soil is good, but there are **two kinds of seeds**. One grows into wheat. The other grows into weeds.

The surprising part of the story is not that weeds appear. We all know weeds exist. The surprising part is that the owner does **not** order the servants to pull them out immediately.

When the servants ask, "Shall we go and gather the weeds?" the owner replies,

"No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest."

That answer must have puzzled the servants. It may even puzzle us today.

Why would a good farmer allow weeds to remain?

The answer reveals something profound about the Kingdom of God. The servants saw only the weeds. The master saw the harvest. The servants wanted immediate action. The master exercised patient wisdom.

That is often the difference between God and ourselves.

We live in what we might call a weedy world.

There is injustice, violence, dishonesty, selfishness, and hatred. Sometimes the weeds are outside us—in society, in workplaces, in communities. Sometimes the weeds grow much closer—in families, churches, and even within our own hearts.

Whenever we see evil, our first instinct is often to remove it immediately.

We want quick justice. Quick solutions. Quick answers.

But Jesus reminds us that God is patient. God's patience should never be mistaken for God's approval of evil. God is not ignoring evil.

God is allowing time—for repentance, for transformation, and for the full harvest to come.

The final judgment belongs to God, not to us.

I remember an incident from many years ago while travelling on a train in India.

A little child kept asking his mother to buy him a toy from a vendor walking through the train. The mother gently explained that she did not even have enough money for their next meal. She asked him to be patient. The child looked at her innocently and asked, "What is patience?"

That question has stayed with me.

Over the years, I have come to think of patience as **the space between what happens to us and how we respond.**

When I was teaching in college, students would sometimes talk while I was lecturing. My first reaction was irritation. I wanted to respond immediately.

But I discovered something. If I waited...

If I gave myself time...My response became wiser and kinder. Often the students themselves corrected their behavior.

Patience created room for change. That is exactly what God does. God gives people room to change.

The owner in the parable also teaches us wisdom.

The servants thought removing the weeds immediately would solve the problem.

The owner knew something they did not. If they pulled out the weeds too early, they might also pull out the wheat. Sometimes our attempts to fix problems quickly create even greater damage. How often has impatience hurt our relationships? How often have harsh words spoken in anger wounded someone we love? How often have quick judgments been proven wrong? Human impatience often destroys what God is still nurturing. God sees possibilities that we cannot yet see.

The Bible gives many examples of the danger of impatience.

Abraham tried to fulfill God's promise through Hagar instead of waiting for Isaac. Moses struck the rock instead of speaking to it. King Saul offered the sacrifice before Samuel arrived. David allowed a moment of uncontrolled desire to bring tragedy into his family. Again and again, Scripture teaches us that impatience leads to regret, while trusting God's timing leads to life.

So how do we live as wheat in a weedy world?

First, **keep your eyes on the harvest rather than the weeds.** The servants became preoccupied with the weeds. The master remained focused on the wheat.

If we spend all our energy complaining about evil, we may forget God's greater purpose—to grow into faithful disciples who bear fruit for His Kingdom.

Second, **accept that living faithfully includes struggle.**

Paul reminds us in Romans that we are God's children and heirs with Christ, "provided we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him."

The presence of weeds does not mean God has abandoned the field. It simply means the harvest has not yet come.

Third, **trust God's final justice.** Jesus makes it clear that the harvest will come. Evil will not have the last word. God's patience has an end. The weeds are not ignored forever. The wheat is not forgotten forever. God will make all things right in His perfect time.

My friends, Jesus never promised that we would live in a weed-free world.

He calls us instead to **be faithful wheat in the middle of the weeds.** Do not become discouraged because evil still exists. Do not become impatient when justice seems delayed. Do not allow the weeds around you to become weeds within you. Instead, continue to grow. Continue to love. Continue to forgive. Continue to bear fruit. Because the Lord of the harvest is watching over His field.

And one day, when the harvest comes, Christ Himself will gather His wheat into His eternal Kingdom.

Until then, may we remain faithful, patient, and fruitful—**living as wheat in a weedy world.**

Amen.