

## **Discussion & Reflection Questions**

### **Sunday 23rd of July 2023**

#### **Read: Matthew 13.24-30, 13.36-43**

<sup>24</sup> He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup> but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup> So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup> And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" <sup>28</sup> He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" <sup>29</sup> But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' <sup>36</sup> Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' <sup>37</sup> He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup> the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup> Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup> and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

#### **Discussion & Reflection Questions**

1. This parable is described as an "uncomfortable" teaching. What makes this parable uncomfortable?
2. What does this parable teach us about God?
3. What does this parable teach us about people (Christians & non-Christians)?
4. What does this parable teach us about evil?
5. Why do you think we are left with & in the weeds?
6. What opportunities do you have by living among all different kinds of people?
7. What dangers lie in trying to label people as either "weeds" or "wheat"?
8. Why is it important to understand that God will judge, but God's judgment is wise & patient?

**Prayer**

Saving God,  
in Jesus Christ you opened for us a new and living way into your presence:  
give us pure hearts  
and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.