

Short Talk

(SHT213)

Weeds and Wheat

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ALL AGE WORSHIP
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SHORT TALK: “Weeds and Wheat”

Aim of Short talk: To challenge people not to judge others and to trust that God will judge righteously at the end of time.

Use of Short talk: This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.

Main themes: Wheat, Weeds, Judging, Heart, Love, End of the Age

Biblical references: Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

Lectionary: Year A – The 6th Sunday after Trinity

Props: You will need:

- a small green plant without flowers (eg. a seedling) and
- a small green weed

The plant and weed need to look as similar as possible.
You also need to be able to project the pictures in Appendix 1.

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Some of you may enjoy gardening, and as Spring turns into Summer, we find not only plants growing in our gardens, but also weeds.

- Now unless you are a really good gardener, it can be very hard to tell the difference between a plant and a weed.

Look at these 2 green plants.

- One of them is a plant that I want to grow in my garden, (*Show the plant*)
- and the other is a weed which I do not want, (*Show the weed*)
- but which is which?
- I wonder if you can tell me. (*Receive responses*)

Unless you really know your plants, it can be easy to pull them up, mistaking them for weeds.

Jesus told a story about a farmer sowing good seed in his field. Having sown the wheat seed, the farmer’s enemy sowed weeds among the wheat one night. The two plants grew up together, side by side. The servants asked the farmer if they should go into the field and pull up the weeds, but the farmer said “no.” He told the servants that by pulling up the weeds, they might uproot the wheat. Instead, both the weeds and the wheat would be left until harvest when they would be separated out into two piles.

When Jesus told His listeners this story, they would have all realised that the weed that Jesus was probably talking about was a weed called Bearded Darnel. *(Project picture of Darnel)*

- This weed looks very much like wheat, *(Project picture of Wheat)* especially when both are young plants.
- In fact, it is only when they are ready for harvest that you can tell the difference between the wheat and the weed.

Unlike wheat, Bearded Darnel is a very nasty plant.

- Its roots get entangled with the roots of the wheat plants,
- and its seeds are very poisonous and can even cause death.

So, what can this story teach us?

Well, when Jesus later explained to His followers what this story meant, He said that the good seed, the wheat, stood for the people who love God and who have chosen to live under His kingdom rule,

- whereas the weeds stood for the people who don't love God.

Both the people who love God and those who don't love Him live in the world alongside each other.

Now whereas God can see the hearts of all people and knows who loves Him and who doesn't love Him, it is impossible for us to truly tell them apart,

- so, one of the things that we can learn today from Jesus' story is that we must not judge other people.
- We will most likely get it wrong.

We may judge that someone is a weed when in fact they are wheat!

- In the same way, we may judge that someone is wheat when in fact they are a weed!

It is easy for us to look at someone and think: *"They can't be a Christian because they aren't like me. They smoke, they like awful music, they dress appallingly, and I don't think that they wash that often!"*

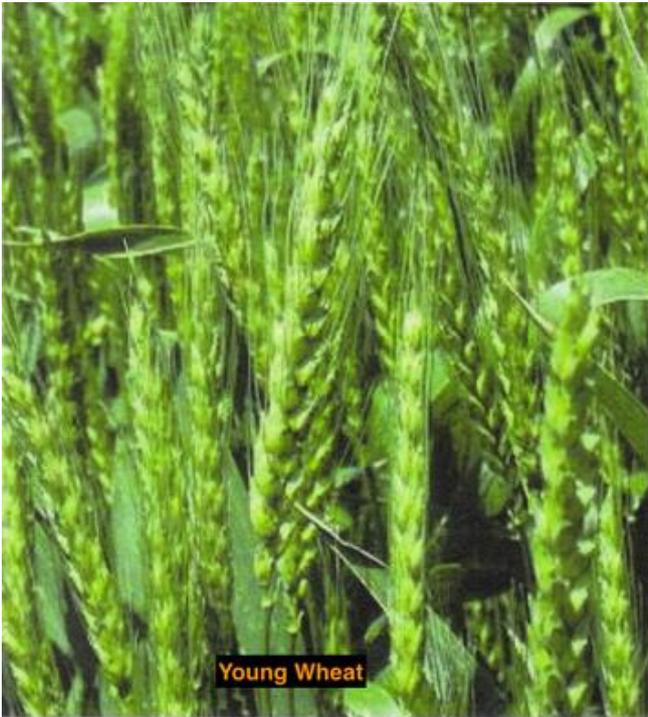
- When we start judging other people, we tend to judge by what they look like, and by some of the things that they do, but we cannot see their hearts.
- We need to allow God to be the judge and to work out who belongs to Him and who doesn't.

Jesus' story ends by saying that at the end of time, God will indeed sort out those who love Him from those who don't because He can tell the difference,

- so, let us trust our Heavenly Father to be the judge and let me encourage you to keep on loving Jesus and following Him.

Appendix 1 – Pictures

Wheat



Weed – Darnel Grass

