



Wheat and Weeds

WARM UP: *How well do you sleep at night: a) Like a log? B) toss and turn all night? C) wake at almost any sound?*

Background: While the Kingdom message is being sown, it faces a variety of different receptions. Some may have thought that the inauguration of the Messiah's Kingdom would be accompanied by cataclysmic events. That did not seem to be happening with Jesus. In the Jewish mind, the coming of the Messiah signaled the coming of God's promised Kingdom. Jesus stated that the Messiah had arrived with his Kingdom, but the fulfillment of the Messianic Kingdom would be delayed until he comes a second time. What, then, is the Kingdom of Heaven like? The parables in this chapter answer this question.

READ ABOUT IT: Matt. 13:24-29, 34-43

1. *Have you ever had someone play a practical joke on you that wasn't really that funny but actually ended up hurting you? How did you feel about that person?*
2. *What was this enemy trying to accomplish by sowing bad seed among the good in the field?*
3. *How would the servants have solved this problem if given the opportunity? How was their solution short-sighted?*
4. *What solution does the owner of the field command? Why is his solution better, but at the same time more difficult?*
5. *What weeds do you have to constantly battle in your field? What about in your family?*
6. **Read 13:34-43.** *Who are the weeds?*
7. *What challenges does this create for the church today?*