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Stories Jesus Told Pt. 2: How to Respond to the Problem of Evil

Jon Rychener

Matthew 13:1-3 (NIV): That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables...

Northwoods Message - The Seed, the Sower, and the Soil – June 30, 2024

Parable of the Weeds (Parable of the Wheat and Tares)

Matthew 13:24-26 (NIV): Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared."

Matthew 13:27 (NIV): "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'"

Matthew 13:28 (NIV): "'An enemy did this,' he replied. The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'"

Matthew 13:29-30 (NIV): "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

Matthew 13:36-39 (NIV): Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels."

Son of Man = Jesus

People of the Kingdom/Wheat/Good Seed = True Followers of Jesus

End of the Age = Will start when Jesus comes again

Matthew 13:40 (NIV): "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age."

Matthew 13:41-43 (NIV): "The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

Our Responses When Faced with the Problem of Evil

Response #1: Remember That Hostile Powers Are At Work In This World

Matthew 13:27-28 (NIV): "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' 'An enemy did this,' he replied..."

Response #2: Recognize That God's Slowness To Act Isn't A Sign Of Careless Indifference, It's A Sign Of His Deep Mercy

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2 Peter 3:9 (NIV): The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Response #3: Rest In The Truth That God Has A Plan That He Will Work Out On His Time

Matthew 13:36 (NIV): Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."