

Loft Underground

Shades of Red - Easter

Final Week of Shades of Red - our series on the parables. This week the loft takes a look at Matthew 13: 24-30. As usual, give it a read and underline anything that speaks to you.

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. 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. The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up 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.’ ”

After reading parables for a few weeks, you should be pros! What do the following symbolize?

The wheat –

The weeds –

The field -

The harvest –

Jesus decodes this parable for us! Check your answers in Matthew 13: 36-42.

This week the loft remembers Good Friday (the day Christ died on the cross) and Easter (the day of Christ’s resurrection). In one sense, it is a day of humanity’s greatest evil and a day of God’s great good.

- Spend a moment in prayer. What is the greatest evil you see within you, around you, and in our world today?

- Spend another moment in prayer. What is the greatest good you see within you, around you, and in our world today?

“Field” parables are a mini-theme for Jesus, with the field usually representing our lives on the earth and the “seed” our potential in it.

- Find Matthew 13: 31-32. What does the mustard seed say about the power of good in the world?

- Now head up to Matthew 13: 1-8. What can happen to seeds in the world?
 - o Of the seeds that fail, which are you most tempted to be?

 - o What are you doing in your life to be well-planted?

Over the course of Shades of Red, you may have noticed a phrase Jesus uses occasionally, “Let those who have ears let them hear” (Matthew 13:9). Let’s try to read this week’s parable in a way to open up our ears.

- Read the parable of the weeds, on the front, again.
 - o What does the parable say to your heart?

 - o What does the parable say to your mind?

 - o What does the parable say to your soul?

**Finally, Easter is a time to reflect on our faith.
What have you learned from the parables of Jesus in Shades of Red
and how has Jesus changed you in the last few weeks?**