

Bible Study

In this week's Scripture reading, Jesus tells two stories: one about the weeds and the wheat, and one about a mustard seed. As you read, consider the following questions:

1. What makes something a weed and not a flower? If someone asked you, how would you explain the difference?
2. Jesus suggests that you cannot pull up weeds without also damaging the roots of the wheat. Where in your own life is something desirable all tangled up with something you would rather get rid of?
3. Think of something in your life that feels like a "weed." What is it like to imagine accepting this weed rather than asking God to destroy it? How might this perspective affect your prayers?
4. Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed. Where in your life have you seen God transform something very small into something so big that it changes the landscape of your life?

Matthew 13:24-32

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where did these weeds come from?'

He answered, 'An enemy has done this.'

The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'

But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 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.'"

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."