

## **The Parable of the Weeds and the Wheat**

For the past several weeks I have been writing about specific parables. Parables are so important in helping us to understand our faith. A parable is like an earthly story but with a heavenly meaning. Jesus used these stories to help illustrate divine truths. They were filled with graphic analogies and were a common form of teaching in Judaism. Another parable that Jesus told was about the weeds and the wheat. There is one benefit that coincides with this parable: Jesus explains what it means. (Matthew 13:24-30) *"He presented another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while people were sleeping, his enemy came, sowed weeds among the wheat, and left. When the plants sprouted and produced grain, then the weeds also appeared. The landowner's slaves came to him and said, 'Master, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Then where did the weeds come from?' "An enemy did this!" he told them. "So, do you want us to go and gather them up?" the slaves asked him. "No," he said. "When you gather up the weeds, you might also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At harvest time I'll tell the reapers: Gather the weeds first and tie them in bundles to burn them, but store the wheat in my barn."... Then He dismissed the crowds and went into the house. His disciples approached Him and said, "Explain the parable of the weeds in the field to us." He replied: "The One who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world; and the good seed—these are the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Therefore, just as the weeds are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather from His kingdom everything that causes sin and those guilty of lawlessness. 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 their Father's kingdom. Anyone who has ears should listen!" This parable teaches us that God is patient with the world. He waits until the time is right before he sends his angels to separate the wheat from the weeds (the followers of Jesus from those that oppose him). God allows us the opportunity to mature into either wheat or weeds. -Sherrie Clutts DRE*