



PUZZLING PARABLES

THE WEEDS

These puzzling parables are given so the truth can sneak up on us and get past our bias, assumptions, self-righteousness and hard hearts.

The ultimate purpose of these puzzling stories is so our eyes will be opened to see and receive God's blessing.

THE SOWER

To hear what God has to say, your heart must be right.

"He who has ears, let him hear."

THE WHEAT & THE WEEDS

The kingdom may look a bit different than expected.

"The kingdom of heaven is like . . ."

THE KINGDOM IS WHEREVER G H H WAY

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ "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?'

²⁸ "An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'²⁹ "No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them.³⁰ 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 13:24-30

THE PARABLE EXPLAINED

"The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man.

³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.⁴⁰ "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age.⁴¹ 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.⁴² They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

Matthew 13:37-43

The d is at work in the field, too. So expect w !

What's our r to the weeds?

I _____

E _____

PROBLEM -- I become the

T _____ **AND C** _____

"An enemy has done this . . ."

NEXT STEPS

