

A woman was working in her yard with the weed whacker, when she accidentally cut off the tail of her cat. She ran screaming into the house, and told her husband, wondering what to do.

He replied calmly, "Get the cat, and the tail, and we'll take them to K-Mart."

She was sceptical and said. "How could that possibly help?"

"Well," he replied, "they're the world's largest re-tailer."

There are numerous definitions of a weed, including:

- a plant out of place and not intentionally sown
- a plant growing where it is not wanted
- a plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.
- plants that are competitive, persistent, pernicious, and interfere negatively with human activity

No matter what definition is used, ***weeds are plants whose undesirable qualities outweigh their good points***

Weeds normally have no trouble just growing up on their own! But now – here in this parable about the weeds, we find that the weeds didn't just happen. The weeds didn't just grow up by chance amongst the good crop.

They were planted by an enemy.

In the parables found in Matthew 13, Jesus is trying to help us understand some of the dynamics we can expect to encounter as Christians in this world.

Jesus has just taught about a farmer spreading seed on 4 different kinds of soils. We see from that sadly, just like those different soils, not everybody's heart is going to be open to having faith in Jesus.

Now, He's telling us another parable about a farmer that sows "good seed" in the field. But - during the night - an enemy comes and maliciously sows weeds in the field.

Jesus tells us

1. The farmer is... "The Son of Man" (Jesus, vs. 37)

2. The good seed stands for... "the sons of the Kingdom" (that's us, vs. 38)
3. The enemy is... "Satan" (vs. 39)
4. The weeds are... "the sons of the evil one" (vs. 38)
5. And the harvest is... "the end of the age" (judgment day)

Now I love flowers but I'm not much of a gardener, however gardening 101 says– if you've got weeds in your garden – you pull them out.

Jesus says these weeds are the tool of Satan. They are the "sons of the evil one". Satan has sown them in this world to undermine God's Kingdom...

It's important to understand the context of the parable. There's something Jesus' audience would have understood, that we wouldn't know much about in our culture. And that is the type of weeds Jesus was probably talking about.

Most scholars believe that the weeds were "Bearded Darnel". Bearded Darnel looks so much like wheat that it's called "False wheat".

As it grows, you can't hardly tell the two apart... until the ear appears.

You wouldn't want to make bread out of this because it contains a strong sleep-inducing, hypnotic like POISON.

It appears Jesus is telling us that Satan's goal is to actively undermine the Gospel by presenting people with a substitute.

To the untrained eye this "false wheat" will look just like the real thing. They could be people who pretend to be Christians, or false teachers.

Jesus warned us about false teachers: "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves." Matthew 7:15

"False Christs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and miracles to deceive the elect." Mark 13:22

"I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number people will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard!." Acts 20:29-31

So, we need to come to grips with the fact that there are people - who will teach false doctrine There are people who look like they are Christians but are not

In Matthew 4. When satan tried to tempt Jesus he used 3 basic approaches:

Satan appealed to pride, then he appealed to the desire for power and lastly he used scripture incorrectly .

Satan twisted Gods word.

Pride and power and the desire to create one's own theology is at the heart of much false teaching and preaching

ILLUS: I recently read an article by a "scholar" in a Christian magazine. He was talking about the importance of scholarship in the church. I thought he made some good points so I read the whole article. Of course, the church does need scholarship to help us better understand many things in Scripture. But then he started going weird.

It was like he believed no one could read the bible without a scholar to interpret! Automatically red flags went up. We must look at scripture and consider what the whole bible says.

Good doctrine starts with what the WHOLE BIBLE SAYS

You'll find that when God wants you to see something... He repeats Himself a lot

That's why we need to spend time in personal Bible Study and the Holy Spirit will give us understanding.

Read the bible with another person and talk about it.

MAKE THE TIME FOR IT

Now, back to the original question:

Why doesn't God just yank up these weeds - these false teachers, and preachers, etc.?

Well... there's a couple of things we need to know.

1st – notice that the weeds are sown "in the world"... not in the church

In the church, WE ARE commanded to pull those weeds out

Romans 16:17 "I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them." The church is commanded to pull up the weeds.

Preachers, Elders, teachers... they're responsible for guarding the flock from false doctrine.

And John wrote: "If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching (about Jesus), do not take him into your house or welcome him. Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work." 2 John 1:10-11 In other words: Do not allow a teacher from the Mormons or Jehovah Witness or any new age group into your home. There are many resources available to give to people who are entangled in these groups. Those ones who come to our houses are highly trained to persuade you.

Weeds are not to be allowed to teach in the church, or in our homes.

But out in the world, God doesn't yank them up.

Because they're not the enemy.

That's right... the Jehovah Witness is not our enemy

The Mormon missionary out riding his bicycle is not our enemy

The Preachers and teachers who teach false doctrine are not our enemies. Who is our enemy?

Well, Jesus said: "... the enemy who sows them is the devil. Matthew 13:39

And Jesus said the reason God didn't want the weeds pulled up was because

"... while you are pulling the weeds, you may up-root the wheat with them."

Matthew 13:29

Now, here's where you've got to stay

with me... REAL physical Weeds never

change.

They were born weeds... they'll die weeds... they will NEVER be wheat!

But people who've been "children of the evil one" aren't locked in.

They may be weeds right now... but they don't have to stay that way.

The power of God is capable of transforming them into the "good seed" (children of righteousness)

2 Peter 3:9 tells us "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but wants everyone to come to repentance." God wants even the weeds to change.

That's why, II Tim. 2:23-26 tells us

"Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.

And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

Those who oppose them (the weeds) they must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will." The weeds aren't the enemy.

The weeds have been taken captive by Satan's lies and deceptions.

And God wants to grant them repentance that will lead to truth.

But, now... how are they going to hear that truth????

By us gently instructing them.

By us knowing our Bible well enough to share God's truth.

In other words... don't be afraid of them.

But gently teach them the truth about Jesus.

Conclusion

There's a true story: Three weeks before the end of his two-year mormon mission, Micah called to tell his parents he was being sent home early—a horrific disgrace in Mormon culture. He had been reading the New Testament. There he encountered a different Jesus than the one we were taught about in Mormonism—a God of grace, not of works, so that no one can boast. Micah was riveted.

To a roomful of missionaries at his parting testimony, Micah had professed faith in Jesus alone and not the Mormon Church. He told them he had found a deep and genuine faith—one that didn't include Mormonism.

Micah pleaded, "Mom and Dad, please read the New Testament." As they read, they became increasingly consumed by reading about the God of grace.

Micah's mum writes, "This is the Jesus my family and I now know. He loves me personally. I devour his Word and find him there. He knows me and teaches me. I do not need the laws and ordinances of the Mormon Church to be saved. Only my beloved Jesus.