

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

Jesus the sower

- Jesus is growing his kingdom (v24,36)
 - Jesus' children in the world (v37-38a)
 - These are his servants... (v27)
 - ...but they are flawed (v25a,29)
- His enemy opposes his work (v25)
 - The devil's sons in the world (v38b-39a)
- This weed-infested field (v26)
 - Doesn't look very impressive...? (cf. v31-35)

Jesus the reaper

- The need to weed...? (v27-28)
 - Dealing with opponents of the gospel
- Weeding damages the crop (v29)
 - We can't always tell who's who
- Jesus will deal with the weeds (v30)
 - 'At the close of the age' (v39b-40)
 - A merciful delay...! (2 Peter 3:9)
 - Jesus will defeat his enemies (v41-42)
 - Jesus will gather his children (v43)

Discussion

- How do you feel about the world being described as a 'weedy field'? Discouraged? Offended? Or do you just want to get your gardening gloves on and start sorting it out?
- What do you think of Jesus' strategy of leaving the weeds alone until the crop is reaped? How are you going to spend your time waiting for 'harvest'?
