

## **WHEAT AND TARES**

**Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

On a surface level, the parable Jesus tells about wheat and tares encourages followers not to do God's job of removing the weeds. As Jesus tells and explains the parable, however, his disciples would have heard even more in Jesus' teaching. With a look at a couple of Old Testament passages, let's search with the disciples for deeper truths.

**Monday: Read Matthew 13:24-30.**

What is the danger of trying to do the judging of good and evil by ourselves?

**Tuesday: Read Matthew 13:36.**

What holds you back from asking questions or digging deeper when you don't understand the teachings of Jesus?

**Wednesday: Read Psalm 37:1-13.**

What can we learn from the Bible about how to live in the face of evil, persecution, and difficulty?

**Thursday: Read Daniel 3:1-18.**

In our world today, what seeks to command our allegiance or draw us away from a life devoted to God?

**Friday: Read Daniel 3:19-30.**

How can you witness to the way of Jesus and the love of God when life is filled with challenges and the world seems to be on fire?

**Saturday: Read Matthew 13:37-43.**

What is the difference between discerning God's way while witnessing to God's kingdom, versus casting judgment and weeding people out of God's embrace?

## **PRAYER**

God, help me steer away from those things that demand I turn away from you.

Jesus, help me hold onto you when the chaos and fires of life seem overwhelming.

Holy Spirit, grant me the faith to witness to reality God desires for all of creation.

## **SUMMARY**

Wheat and tares, in the early stages of growth, are remarkably similar. When Jesus explains the parable, he suggests to his followers more connections. The blazing furnace recalls the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the book of Daniel. In that story, the role of God's faithful servants was to remain faithful amidst the weeds of the empire.

**God initiates the kingdom. Our role: remain faithful and witness to it.**