

WEEK FOUR: WHILE THE WEEDS GROW

Hear the story. See the King. Answer the call.

Matthew 13: 24–30, 36–43

1. Who is someone you've been tempted to write off as hopeless, too far gone, or unlikely to ever change?
2. Where is the line between biblical discernment and sinful condemnation in your own life?
3. How does God's patience toward sinners change the way you view His patience with you?
4. While you wait for Jesus to bring the final harvest, what work has He actually given you to do?

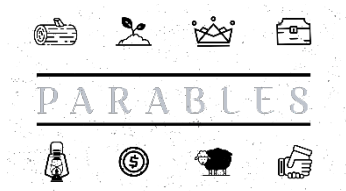
WEEKLY CALL

Choose one person you've been tempted to pronounce final judgment on and begin praying specifically for their repentance.

Trust the King with the harvest.



Signup To Receive Questions via Text or Email @
www.1stFreeWillBaptist.Church/Go-Deeper-Signup



PRAYER GUIDE

WEEK FOUR: WHILE THE WEEDS GROW

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

ARE YOU TRYING TO DO GOD'S JUDGING INSTEAD OF DOING GOD'S WORK?

OPENING REFLECTION

This prayer guide helps you process the central message of Jesus' parable about wheat and weeds. As you pray, you'll examine your own tendency to judge others, celebrate God's patience, and recommit to the work He's actually called you to do.

SECTION 1: ADORATION - RECOGNIZING GOD'S CHARACTER

Scripture Meditation

- Matthew 13:37-39 - Jesus identifies Himself as the sower and acknowledges His complete knowledge of the field
- 2 Peter 3:9 - God's patience reveals His desire that none should perish
- Matthew 13:40-43 - Jesus will judge perfectly and completely

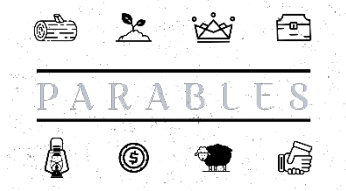
Adoration Prompts

- What aspect of God's character do you most need to remember today?
- How does knowing God sees everything change your perspective on injustice you're experiencing?

Guided Prayer Template

Begin by acknowledging who God is in relation to this parable:

"Father, I praise You because You are the perfect Judge. You see everything - every hidden act, every cruel word, every secret motive. Nothing escapes Your attention. You know the entire story of every life, not just the moments I can see. You are patient, not because You don't care about evil, but because You love sinners and want them to repent. You are the King who will one day bring complete justice and set all things right. I worship You for Your perfect knowledge, Your righteous judgment, and Your patient mercy."



PRAYER GUIDE

SECTION 2: CONFESSION – EXAMINING YOUR HEART

Confession Prompts

- Who have you been tempted to write off as beyond God's reach?
- What specific judgment have you pronounced that belongs only to God?
- How would you feel if someone had said about you what you've said about them?

Scripture Meditation

- Matthew 13:28-29 - The servants' eagerness to pull up weeds reflects our impulse to judge
- Romans 3:23 - All have sinned and fall short of God's glory
- Matthew 7:1-3 - Jesus warns against judging while ignoring our own sin

Guided Prayer Template

Move into honest confession about your tendency to judge:

"Lord, I confess that I am often quicker to judge than to pray. I see the weeds in others' lives and rush to pronounce judgment. I take snapshots of people's worst moments and treat them as their entire story. I've said things like 'They'll never change' and 'God could never reach somebody like that.' I confess that I want justice for everyone else's sin while hoping You overlook mine. Forgive me for confusing my role with Your perfect judgment. Forgive me for the pride that makes me think I can see what You see and know what You know. I am a sinner who lives entirely by grace, and I have no right to condemn anyone."



PRAYER GUIDE

SECTION 3: THANKSGIVING – CELEBRATING GOD'S PATIENCE

Gratitude Prompts

- Who prayed for you or shared the Gospel with you during God's patient season in your life?
- What specific sin did God show mercy toward in your own story?
- How has God's patience toward you changed the way you see patience as a spiritual value?

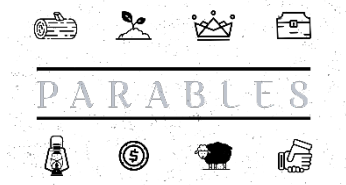
Scripture Meditation

- 2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is patient, not wanting anyone to perish
- Ephesians 2:4-5 - God's mercy and grace toward us while we were sinners
- Romans 5:8 - Christ died for us while we were still sinners

Guided Prayer Template

Express gratitude for the patience God has shown you:

"Thank You, Father, that You didn't bring final judgment the first time I sinned. Thank You that You gave me time to hear the Gospel, time for someone to pray for me, time for Your Spirit to convict me, and time to repent. Thank You that every Christian here exists because You were patient with a sinner. Thank You most of all for Jesus, who took my judgment upon Himself at the cross. He lived the righteous life I haven't lived. He bore the punishment my rebellion deserves. He died as my substitute, was buried, and rose from the grave on the third day. Because of His sacrifice, I am saved by grace through faith, not because I've proven I'm better than anyone else. I am eternally grateful."



PRAYER GUIDE

SECTION 4: SUPPLICATION – PRAYING FOR OTHERS AND YOURSELF

Supplication Prompts

- Name one person to pray for specifically this week regarding their repentance
- Identify one boundary you need to establish while still remaining prayerful
- Choose one action from the work God has given you: pray, love, serve, speak truth, share the Gospel, teach, encourage, or pursue holiness

Scripture Meditation

- Matthew 13:29-30 - The Owner tells servants to wait until the harvest
- 1 Timothy 2:1-4 - We are called to pray for all people
- Colossians 1:9-12 - Paul's model for praying for believers

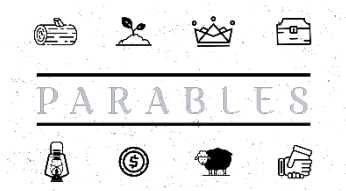
Guided Prayer Template

For Someone You've Written Off

"Lord, I bring before You [person's name], someone I've been tempted to pronounce final judgment on. I've said they won't change, that they're too far gone, that there's no point praying for them. But I confess that You aren't finished with them while they still have breath in their lungs. Have mercy on them. Open their eyes to the Gospel. Convict them of sin. Help them see the beauty of Christ. Show me how to respond to them in a way that is truthful, wise, and faithful. Help me pray for their repentance rather than pronounce their condemnation."

For Yourself

"Lord, help me hate evil without hating the people You call me to reach. Give me wisdom where boundaries are necessary and courage where truth needs to be spoken. Grant me mercy toward those who are still far from You. Help me refuse to grab the Judge's gavel and instead pick up the work You've actually given me. Help me pray, love, serve, speak truth, and share the Gospel. Help me walk in holiness and keep pointing people toward Jesus. And when I become discouraged because the field still has weeds in it, help me remember that the delay of judgment is not the absence of the King."



PRAYER GUIDE

SECTION 5: THE WORK GOD ACTUALLY GAVE YOU

Scripture Meditation

- Matthew 28:19-20 - The Great Commission
- 1 Peter 3:15 - Always be prepared to give a reason for your hope
- Galatians 6:9-10 - Do good to all people, especially believers

Action-Oriented Prayer Template

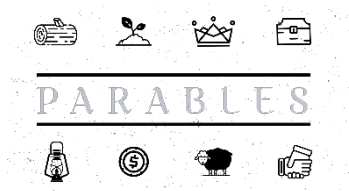
"Lord, while I wait for the harvest, help me do the work You actually gave me. Help me proclaim the Gospel clearly. Help me pray faithfully. Help me serve humbly. Help me love my neighbors genuinely. Help me teach my children wisely. Help me encourage believers faithfully. Help me confront sin when Scripture requires it, but do so humbly, remembering that I'm a sinner who lives entirely by grace. Help me pursue holiness in my own life. Help me keep sowing Your Word. And help me refuse to pronounce final judgment on people You are still calling to repentance."

Weekly Work Assessment

Rate your engagement with each area (1-5, with 5 being most consistent):

- Proclaiming the Gospel: ____
- Prayer for others: ____
- Serving others: ____
- Loving neighbors: ____
- Teaching/Mentoring: ____
- Encouraging believers: ____
- Confronting sin (when needed): ____
- Pursuing personal holiness: ____

Choose one area to strengthen this week.



PRAYER GUIDE

CLOSING PRAYER

"Father, thank You for this time of prayer. Help me remember that while the weeds grow, the King is still reigning. Help me trust You with what belongs to You alone - the final judgment. Help me faithfully do the work You've given me. Help me pray for those I've written off. Help me speak truth with mercy. Help me share the Gospel with urgency. And help me live in the confidence that when the proper time comes, the Son of Man will bring the harvest and set all things right. Until then, may I be found faithfully doing the work of my King. In Jesus' name, Amen."

JOURNALING PROMPTS

Spend 2-3 minutes reflecting on these questions in a journal:

1. The Person I've Written Off: Who is someone I need to stop judging and start praying for?
2. My Own Judgment: What specific judgment have I pronounced that I need to repent of?
3. God's Patience in My Story: When did God's patience toward me change my life?
4. This Week's Work: What is one specific way I will do God's work instead of God's judging?
5. The Harvest Hope: How does the promise of Christ's return and final judgment comfort me when I see injustice?



PRAYER GUIDE

THIS WEEK'S "CALL"

"This week, I will choose one person you've been tempted to pronounce final judgment on, and begin praying specifically for their repentance.

I will ask the Lord to have mercy on them. That He would open their eyes to the Gospel... Convict them of sin... and that they would begin to see the beauty of Christ.

I will ask Jesus how I can respond to them and treat them in a way that's truthful, wise, and faithful.

And then... I will trust the King with the harvest.

The delay of judgment is not the absence of the King. He knows His field. He sees every weed. He knows every stalk of wheat. Your job is not to judge - your job is to pray, love, serve, speak truth, and share the Gospel until He returns.

HEAR THE STORY.

SEE THE KING.

ANSWER THE CALL.

