THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS

(Slide) This is not good farming practice

 Weeds choke out plants

 Letting them go to seed is not

 Good

**Mystery 1**

The kingdom is at work through out the whole world

Broadcast planting goes everywhere

“entire field is planted”

Field = earth

There are no places and no times

 And no people in which the

 Kingdom is not at work

While the farmer is “sleeping” the seed does it’s job all by itself.

**Mystery 2**

Something goes wrong

The enemy comes

Sows weeds but it does not endanger the good plants.

It is an inconvenience to the farmer but doesn’t seem to affect his crop.

The workers want to take direct action and pull weeds

**Mystery 3**

Doing nothing is the preferred

 Action to take against evil

This is a mysterious action

Tactic on non-interference

**Mystery 4**

Our proposals to attack evil are a menace to the kingdom of God

What are Christians known for

 Against abortion

 Against homosexuality

 Against Muslims

 Against sin

 Against sex

 Against society that is heading

 In wrong direction

 Against liberals

 Against conservative

 Against science

 Against evolution

 Against drugs, smoking

 Playing cards and

 Hats in church

We look like hypocrites because everyone knows we are really big fat sinners

Luther: beggers who know where the food is

Do you see how we are pulling up the wheat as we self-rightously go after the weeds?

Not to mention that we are pretty weedy ourselves!!!

**Mystery 5**

Weeds and Wheat look very much the same

Zizania

Lolium temulentum

Darnel

 Looks very much like wheat

Our programs to get rid of evil will do exactly what the farmer says they will do:

The enemy uses craft and subtlety

Since the only troops available to fight his battle are either too confused or too busy to recognize the real difference between good and evil

All they will accomplish by their frantic pulling out of the weeds is the tearing up of the wheat righ along with them.

The only result of a truly dedicated campaign to get rid of evil will be the literal destruction of everyone

**Mystery 6**

Evil has no power in itself against goodness.

The enemy sows the weeds

But after that he is not involved

He has no power against goodness

**Mystery 7**

Evil is a counterfeit of reality, not reality itself.

What he hopes we will do to help him by pulling the weeds and destroying the wheat.

He has no power against goodness!!!!!

Evil, like darnel, is a counterfeit of reality,

NOT REALITY IN ITSELF!

(CS Lewis) – Screwtape letters

 not god against God

 fallen angel against God

**Mystery 8**

The devil mostly depends on "negative power".

He sprinkles negative seeds and sits around and waits for the power of good to stir things up.

Enemy only needs negative power

He doesn’t have to do much

Just plant weeds, wait for us to act.

He mostly depends on the forces of goodness.

All the devil needs is for us to take up arms against the confusion he has introduced to do his work.

**Mystery 9**

The Bible's answer to why there is evil in the world is the same as the farmers:

"the enemy has done this"

Coming to the farmer

 The servants are totally

 Preoccupied with the problem of evil

“Sir, where did the weeds come from?”

Why is there evil in the world?

Notice, we rarely ask how we should act in the world of evil but God why is it there?

If God is good why is the world bad?

Why do bad things happen to good people?

Why does God allow evil in the world?

Why do all these terrible things happen?

If a mugger is stabbing you over and over again, your biggest problem is hardly whether you can manage to approve or disapprove of the cosmic Somebody who, by design or default makes such unpleasant behavior possible!

Credit the servants

They don’t ask these questions…

Only ask: what can we do about it?

“do you want us…”

The bible’s only true answer to evil, like it or not, is:

“An enemy has done this.”

The only next questions are:

 “whose side are you on?

 And

 “whose tactics will you use to solve the problem?”

Pull up evil and you pull up goodness right along with it.

**Mystery 10**

When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me, speaking words of wisdom,

"Let it be, let be, let it be, speaking words of wisdom, let it be."

The most remarkable word in the parable comes next…

Aphete: let, permit, suffer

Same word used for forgive

Forgive our debts as we forgive others.

Aphete our debts and we aphete others

All malice, the evil, the badness that is manifest in the real world and in the lives of real people is not to be dealt with by attacking or abolishing the things or persons in whom it dwells; rather it is to be dealt with only by an aphesis, by letting forgiveness, by letting it go.

And trusting God

 To be the judge, jury and executioner at the end of all time.

And

Holding tightly onto Jesus for the forgiveness of our evil.