

Vicar Andrew Wolfgram  
Text: Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43  
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Setting: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Is it time?

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Is it time? That is a question that many people ask throughout their life. From a young age that question is asked enthusiastically to see when they can wake up. Fast forward to teenage years and that question is asked with the expectation that they will have more time to sleep. Getting to your job and asking if it is time to start the day or end the day. Time is something that we are all awarded by God, even if for different reason. While waiting in recovering from a surgery or ailment, you may ask, is it time for me to be strong enough to get back to my normal routine? But for one occupation more than others does time either work for or against as much as the farmer. And so, let us consider a farmer.

Time was on his side, and he waited. There was a farmer many years ago who went out to his field. He did what he did every year. He got the land ready for seeding his crop. He tilled it, turned over the field and made it perfect for the time that he would go out to seed.

The time came for the farmer to go out and spread his seed for the crop. He spread seed on this corner and that corner of the field, everywhere he wanted it to grow. Everything was planted as he ended the work day.

That night, his rival, his enemy came and spread his own bad seed on the field and went away quietly, telling no one he had been there. There is a saying that says- "More grows in the garden,

than the gardener knows he has planted.” This saying reflects what’s happening well. The weeks passed into a month and the good seeds and the bad seeds grew together in that large field. The stalk came up and grew and grew. Some of the farmhands noticed the weeds coming up in the field and immediately told their boss what had happened.

In a subtle, non-combatant way they gave their boss the bad news and tried to share it the best way that they could. “You planted good seed right boss? Why are there so many weeds?”

Without missing a beat the farmer looks to his workers and told them, “My rival did this, an evil man is he.”

The workers then asked their boss, “What do we do? Do you want us to weed the field?” The farmer said, “No, if you do that then you will pull up the good wheat along with the weeds. Wait for the harvest. Collect all the weeds and burn them, and put the good wheat in the barn.”

We look at this parable the same way the disciples of Jesus did. What does this mean? Who are the good wheat and who are the weeds? Some put in the barn and others lit ablaze in the fire.

Jesus describes the setting and characters in the parable. The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. Jesus is describing the battle between God and the devil. While the Holy Spirit is active in the world bringing people to faith, the spiritual battle is raging between the heavenly armies of God, and the demonic forces of the devil.

The devil, who is a fallen angel from heaven tries to be like God our Father, the maker of all things. Whenever God plants good things, the devil is not far behind with his seeds to sow

evil. From the time that Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden until now, the seeds of both God and Satan have spread across the earth. God plants the good seeds of faith, the devil plants the weeds of unbelief. As Christians we go through this world with the pain and struggle of dealing with others around us causing us to sin. Unbelievers around us that work to drain and suppress our faith the way the weeds pull moisture and nutrients from the wheat.

We may ask, what should we do about this now? Should we find and destroy these weeds right now? Should we destroy these that are not good seed and those that do not believe? God tells us no. God does all things in his time. What we see right now, is simply a blink of an eye to God who can see all things, at all times, and all places. There will unfortunately those that are not brought to faith and suffer the consequences of their lack of faith.

For we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. What do we deserve? We deserve death, hell, and damnation as punishment for our sins. But thanks be to God that we receive mercy, not getting what we do deserve and receive grace, getting what we don't deserve. We deserve to be thrown into that hellfire where the weeds are burned. Christ took that punishment upon himself for us. We who have been given faith will be given a different reward, one being entrance into heaven. Where we will be with the one who went through hellfire on the cross for us.

There is a time for everything. The time that each of us have is not our own. God numbers our days and gives us as many days as He sees fit. God's timeline is not our own.

Someday this world will end. Christ will come the same way that he left, coming from the clouds. For us as followers of Christ, we look forward to that day when Christ will return to take us to be home with Him. We are also reminded that our God is a just God who punishes sin.

We are reminded that God does things at all times and places, and that His time is not our own. God is in control, and it is not for us to worry about. After all, “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.” (Rom. 5:6)

Christ died at just the right time for you and me as God had planned. So the answer to the question “Is it time?” is that God is in control. God is God and we are not. Amen.

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21