

new

DISCERNMENT

“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.” (Matthew 13:24-26)

As we step into a new season, we need to learn (and perhaps this is a new muscle to flex) the importance of having discernment. Like these verses in Matthew, we need to know the difference between wheat and weeds. God is calling us to do great things, and this requires knowing what is producing weeds in our life and what is producing wheat.

Being alert and aware is one of the important pieces to ensuring weeds do not grow in the midst of your “field” this year. In verse 25, Jesus mentions “sleeping,” and this was the cause of weeds being planted. This can look like us being physically tired because we are not caring for our health, getting offended, being frustrated, being hurt when someone doesn’t call you back, feeling excluded when you weren’t invited to a party, or making our lives revolve around what we do, instead of making Jesus the center.

What can be hard is knowing the difference between the two because weeds can often wear the mask of wheat. Tares are a weed that strongly resembles wheat during its sprouting phase but lacks fruit. It looks like wheat for a time, but tares do not produce good grains. They produce a toxic grain that can cause sickness or death if eaten. Weeds in our life can distract us, cause us to drift, and can rob us of the life God designs us to have.

WHEAT:

Bringing Solutions
Believing the Best
Generosity
Forgiveness
Serving Others

WEEDS:

Being Critical
Being Suspicious
Stinginess
Unforgiveness
Sitting Idly

We cannot be moved by people's words; we need to be moved by fruit. People are well-meaning, but what they provide could be a weed. We need to surround ourselves with the wise and godly because the stakes are different. As you continue to grow, the cost is different. Everyone wants to be a part of the harvest. People aren't drawn to seeds; they are drawn to harvest, influence, flowers. We need to ask God to give us a new discernment and anointing we need to move forward and take new ground.

CHALLENGE

To continue to develop the leadership within you, listen to our leadership talk by searching Shoreline City Leadership Talks wherever you listen to podcasts!

PRAYER

FATHER, THIS YEAR, GRANT ME A NEW LEVEL OF DISCERNMENT. ILLUMINATE THE ASPECTS OF MY LIFE THAT HAVE MASQUERADED AS WHEAT, BUT ARE, IN FACT, WEEDS. HELP ME TO EMBODY WHEAT AND NOT BE A WEED IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS. BESTOW UPON ME A HEIGHTENED LEVEL OF MATURITY TO HARVEST A LIFE-GIVING BOUNTY THROUGH MY WORDS, ACTIONS, AND RELATIONSHIPS. GRANT ME THE VISION TO SEE AND THE WISDOM TO HEAR THE TRUTH UNDERLYING WHAT IS SAID AND DONE. GUIDE ME TO BELIEVE THE BEST AND TO BE A CATALYST FOR CHANGE.
IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.