

June 21

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

In these verses, Jesus tells the “parable of the weeds” and then explains it to his disciples.

Question to Consider:

Jesus teaches that as his followers we will live alongside people who do not follow Him, and may even seek to harm those who do. What are some ways you can strengthen your life of faith so that you are better able to withstand the pressure others may put on you to turn away from Jesus?

Prayer:

Loving Father, there are “weeds” all around, trying to pull me away from you. Strengthen my faith so that I stand firm with Jesus and fully trust in you. I pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.

June 22

Matthew 13:31-35

Jesus teaches about the potential of something small to do something significant.

Question to Consider:

Sometimes we feel that as individuals, there is little we can do to make a difference in the world, but Jesus teaches otherwise. How might you become “yeast,” and make a difference for Christ where you live?

Prayer:

Almighty God, with you all things are possible. Help me to grow in my trust in you so that I can become “yeast” for you, making a difference for your kingdom in my family and my community. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

June 23

Matthew 13:44-50

Jesus tells three more parables about the kingdom of God.

Question to Consider:

The first two parables speak of the great value of the kingdom of heaven (referring in a sense to our relationship with God). Think of the worldly possession you value most highly. Would you be willing to give it up if your relationship with God required that you do so?

Prayer:

Loving Father, I know that my relationship with you is of great value. Help me to always put you first and to value most highly the life I have with you. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

June 24

John 5:2-18

These verses tell of Jesus healing a man who had been an invalid for 38 years.

Question to Consider:

The question Jesus asked the man is critically important – do you *want* to get well? When it comes to our relationship with God, each of us has something that gets in the way, something that needs “healing,” in a sense. Honestly think of your own life. What gets in the way of your relationship with God? Do you *want* to get well?

Prayer:

Gracious God, there is something in my life that is getting in the way of my relationship with you. Help me to know what it is and then help me to deal with it, because I *want* to get well. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

June 25

Mark 6:17-29

This passage tells the story of the gruesome death of John the Baptist.

Question to Consider:

This story raises a difficult truth about life – bad things happen to good people. Although we often do not understand why, we can see God at work in the way people respond to such events. Think of a time when something bad has happened (maybe an accident or a bad storm, etc.). How have you seen people respond in caring ways? Is that God at work?

Prayer:

Almighty God, your ways are not my ways and I often find myself confused – not understanding why bad things happen to good people. When those events occur, help me to see you at work in the responses of your people, and help me to respond with the love of Jesus when the need arises. It is in Jesus’ name that I pray. Amen.