



PART 1: *Soil Samples*

## PART 2: *A Serious Lack of Judgement*

PART 3: *For the Birds*

Whoever has ears, let them hear.  
~ Jesus

### APPETIZER: A Still Small Voice

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind.  
After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.  
After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire.  
And after the fire came a gentle whisper.  
~ 1 Kings 19:11-12

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: ... all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church.  
~ Colossians 1:15-18

More at [Bruxy.com](http://Bruxy.com)

### DINE IN: None of Your Business

Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

The field = the world (including, but not restricted to, the church)  
The sower = Jesus  
The good seed = Jesus people  
The enemy = the Devil  
The bad seed = people influenced by the Devil  
The blazing furnace = where the weeds are destroyed

Lessons:

1. God's kingdom advances gently, softly, tenderly.
2. There is "an enemy" at work in the world. (**Matthew 15:10-14**)
3. Don't judge. You're not good at it and the position is taken.
4. Ask. Pursue. Be active in your own spiritual growth.
5. Grow alongside. There is always a chance for weeds to change.
6. Anticipate. Look forward, not backward, to know who you are.

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

~ 1 John 3:2

### TAKE OUT: Hearing God's Gentle Whisper

- This Week's Daily Meditation: **Matthew 13:24-30**

**NEXT WEEK:** *For the Birds* (**Matthew 13:31-33**)

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## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. How goes your daily meditation? What have you learned – about Jesus, about life, or about yourself – so far?
2. Review the sermon – any lingering questions or helpful revelations?

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43**, slowly, more than once, in different translations.
  - a. What verse, phrase, word, or idea stands out to you the most? What might God be saying to you through this?
  - b. Parables point in general terms toward a central truth without being overly concerned about being precise (e.g., if we are the wheat, who are the servants?). What do you think is the one main point (or maybe two) of this parable?
  - c. How do you think the devil is at work, sowing weeds in the world today? Talk about some examples.
  - d. Do you think the “blazing furnace”...
    - i. tortures weeds (people) forever? [the Classical view / ECT],
    - ii. destroys weeds (people)? [Conditionalism/Anihilationism]
    - iii. destroys sin, to purify and make people ready for heaven? [Universal Reconciliation]
  - e. What do you think it will be like to “shine like the sun” in our Father’s kingdom? What are you most looking forward to about your eternal future? How does this influence how you live in the present?
4. DEBATE! Take a few minutes to have a debate about determinism. Does this parable support the notion that God predetermines specific people to be wheat? Does Satan determine who will be weeds? Where is free choice in this? Use this parable and other passages to make your case.
5. Take five-ten minutes for quiet meditation on this parable. What has the Holy Spirit been highlighting to you? Stay with that and listen.

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

6. Let’s start using our huddle questions. Do you have a copy? If not, talk to your home church leaders.