

WEEDS AND WHEAT

Romans 8:18-27 | Matthews 13:24-30, 36-43

Embracing the _____ of this parable

The problem of _____

And Jesus says, in metaphor, _____

What to _____?

Bear _____

Read. Reflect. Respond. Remember.

Tell all the truth but tell it slant —
Success in Circuit lies
Too bright for our infirm Delight
The Truth's superb surprise
As Lightning to the Children eased
With explanation kind
The Truth must dazzle gradually
Or every man be blind —

-Emily Dickinson, *Tell All the Truth but Tell It Slant*

There is a sense that Jesus, especially in parables, was trying to do something that is very hard to do – get at a deep truth, and do it in a way that doesn't immediately leave people shut down. This parable today could pretty easily be summarized, "Why is there evil?" and you could talk about that for days, weeks, months, years and find yourself firmly in one camp or another. Jesus, while answering the why evil questions, calls our attention to *have you seen the good? It's there too.*

Read the poem above.

Reflect: What truth, plainly spoken, has caused you to be blind in your life? I'll give you an example: You should eat your vegetables.

Respond: What truth has come at you sideways and, through poking and prodding, caused you to change your life?

Remember:

"I will open my mouth in parables,
I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."
Matthew 9:35b (see Psalm 78:2)