



Grains

“Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books that are now written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will

then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.” —**Rainer Maria Rilke**
Submitted by Rev. Dave Van Kley, Gwinn, Michigan

“If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden.” —**Frances Hodgson Burnett**
Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Roseville, Minnesota

Field

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father... Matthew 13: 36-43

Thoughts

The only way we can get rid of a new weed growing abundantly in certain parts of our yard is to pull it up by the root. That will be tricky because the weeds are so intertwined with some of the flowers and plants we want to keep. It is easy to draw examples from the land that make Jesus’ image of the wheat and weeds and what they represent in life relatable. But the task of sorting through what to keep and release and the timing of when to act are not always simple.

We may need to let go of our own negativity to recognize the beauty that surrounds us, as Burnett invites us to do. But we also hold in tension the reality of there being a destructive force in the world. Matthew emphasizes how we have both good and evil in society and within ourselves. When are we the source of pain? When are we putting up with too much? Should I stay or should I go? Is it time to cut that person off from social media and my life? Which news do I listen to and act upon?

Some problems demand bold action sooner than later. But do we always need to force an answer? It’s okay not to immediately ghost someone who offended you. It is fine not to get even; we are not God. It is more grace-filled to live some questions now. “Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer,” Rilke wrote. What questions are you holding? In the paradox presented by certain questions, we may even find openings to prayer. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy