



# grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

July 13-19, 2020

Sermon by Lead Pastor Pete Moon

Sermon Title: “Navigating our Culture of Wheat and Weeds”

Notes from sermon on 7/12:

Things to Pray For This Week:

### Family Focus Question:

So often on TV, people seem to be either the good guy (person) or the bad guy. Could it be that everyone (including me!) is really a mixture of both?

### Questions for Small Groups

1. How are you a person that does not fit in the usual and predictable categories and stereotypes?
2. How do we do this? How do we withhold final judgement on the weeds in this day and age when so many seek judgment and discernment immediately?
3. Philip Yancey famously described our time as a season of “ungrace.” What is the key to acting counter to our culture and looking at others and ourselves through the eyes of grace?

### Monday, July 13: Read Matthew 13:24-43

This week, we address a vitally contemporary message: judging others. We live in such a confusing age where we try to discern what is kingdom truth and what is evil. In this age of so called “Fake News” and multiplying conspiracy theories, it feels like we are navigating the fields of weeds and wheat in today’s scripture passage without any bearings.

This text reminds us, however, that this scenario in itself is not unusual. Herein is a call to patience, to know with confidence that Christ will judge with perfect discernment and justice. Unfortunately, if we really look in the mirrors, we will recognize that our own hearts are really a field of wheat and weeds. This forces us to begin our discernment and judgment of others with a generous portion of grace.

Are we ready to recognize the “wheat” in others, where we only see weeds? Perhaps more importantly, are we ready to see the weeds in our own field, and recognize the grace we have received from God and others for

them? That being said, are we also prepared to give judgment up to God, knowing there will be justice in the end?

**Tuesday, July 14: Read Matthew 7:1-5**

Many of us have been convicted by this passage throughout our lives. It's hard to read Jesus's words today without cringing, thinking of how often we have judged the speck in another's eye while ignoring the log in our own. Why is it so easy and satisfying to judge others? Why do we so often focus on the very sins in others that we are harboring in ourselves? Perhaps deep down, all of us are incredibly insecure about our own worthiness to receive love and acceptance. If we compare ourselves to others at their worst moments, it makes us feel better. What if we instead focused on the incredible grace we have all received through Christ, and saw others as our brothers and sisters in Christ AND in our struggle with sin?

**Wednesday, July 15: Read Colossians 2:13-14**

What an incredible powerful image today's passage gives us: our sins (past, present, future) have been nailed to the cross. Not just our own, but the sins of everyone we love...and hate. We can choose to continue to carry those sins around with us and refuse God's grace through Christ's sacrifice, or we can give them over. Can we also do that for others? We will read tomorrow that God is concerned with justice, so forgiving others does not mean turning a blind eye to sin or allowing injustice to reign on earth, but we are called to point others to God's grace and forgiveness in Christ, helping others accept it for themselves and pass it on to others. Who in our lives needs grace and forgiveness today? How can we show them the redemption of the cross so they can be healed, and in doing so, start healing others?

**Thursday, July 16: Read Revelation 20:11-15**

Some of us may take comfort in today's apocalyptic passage of final judgment. The rest of us may be terrified by it. Let us examine our reactions and consider if we are hanging onto sins we have not yet handed over to God...ones we have not yet fully confessed and received the blessed assurance of God's grace and forgiveness. There are many ways Christians interpret the book of Revelation, but there is one thing upon which we can all probably agree: harboring guilt wreaks havoc not only on us, but it causes us to hurt others. Accepting God's grace and handing over judgment of others to God is healing...freeing...purifying. What can we hand over to God today?

**Friday, July 17: Read Luke 7:36-50**

We end this week with a passage that calls us to examine not only how we judge others in how they sin, but how we judge others in how they *worship*. Today's political climate has pitted Christians against one another, calling us to criticize how we congregate, vote, love, spend resources, interpret the Bible, and use the name of Jesus. Can we offer the same grace to other believers that we offer to non-believers? Can we see the wheat among their weeds, just as we see the weeds among our own wheat? Are we ready to recognize ourselves in both the sinful woman and the judgmental Judas? Let us pray today for God to forgive the sins of all of us who call upon Jesus's name, as well as those who never do. Let us ask God to forgive all of our weeds and help us bring out the wheat in one another as one unified body of Christ and one unified world made up of God's beautiful, grace-filled, and very imperfect children.

**Saturday, July 18: Scripture Memorization: Colossians 2:13-14**

"When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross." (NIV)

**Sunday, July 19: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of Common Confession:** *Lord, so often we pride ourselves in our ability to not judge others. And yet so often we do. We naturally see ourselves as the wheat and everyone else as the weeds. That false vision prevents us from picturing others through the eyes of grace. Forgive us and give us new eyes to see ourselves through the cross and the undeserved grace found there. Humble us so that we might envision others in love and be raised up to serve them in the name of Jesus.*