



MATTHEW



Parables are short, subversive, fictitious stories set alongside Jesus' announcement of the kingdom of heaven/God.

The Parable of the Wheat & Weeds

Zizanian



The Nature of Reality

Our view of reality is like a map with which to negotiate the terrain of life. If the map is true and accurate, we will generally know where we are, and if we have decided where we want to go, we will generally know how to get there. If the map is false and inaccurate, we generally will be lost. While this is obvious, it is something that most people to a greater or lesser degree choose to ignore. They ignore it because our route to reality is not easy. First of all, we are not born with maps; we have to make them, and the making requires effort. The more effort we make to appreciate and perceive reality, the larger and more accurate our maps will be. But many do not want to make this effort. Some stop making it by the end of adolescence. Their maps are small and sketchy, their views of the world narrow and misleading. By the end of middle age most people have given up the effort. They feel certain that their maps are complete...

M. Scott Peck

A War of Two Kingdoms

Deceptive ideas that play to disordered desires, which are normalized in a sinful society...Dirty war is a far more fitting metaphor for our spiritual struggle. We're not up against the spiritual equivalent of the German war machine of the last century. It's more akin to bots, deepfakes, insurgency IEDs, and opposing street rallies in Houston between "Stop Islamification of Texas" and "Save Islamic Knowledge" that was actually organized by Russian spies via Facebook ads.

John Mark Comer

There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan.

CS Lewis

When you go against the grain of the universe you get splinters.

HH Farmer

I don't have to wait until all is well, but I can celebrate every little hint of the Kingdom that is at hand. This is a real discipline. It requires choosing for the light even when there is much darkness to frighten me, choosing for life even when the forces of death are so visible, and choosing for the truth even when I am surrounded with lies. I am tempted to be so impressed by the obvious sadness of the human condition that I no longer claim the joy manifesting itself in many small but very real ways.

Henri Nouwen

The Great Temptation

The enemy loves nothing better than open conflict on open fields of battle by a church armed with the enemy's weapons...Some evil may in fact be removed by violence; but in the process it will be impossible to avoid uprooting good as well...The harm that is done by well-intentioned violence is incalculable.

Dale Bruner

The Harvest is Coming



The Invitation: Patient Trust

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

James 5:7-8

The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

A non-anxious inner presence that waits with God as he works out his redemptive purposes in his redemptive time.

Patience was not a virtue dear to most Greco-Roman people, and it has been of little interest to scholars of early Christianity. But it was centrally important to the early Christians. They talked about patience and wrote about it; it was the first virtue about which they wrote a treatise, and they wrote no fewer than three treatises on it. Christian writers called patience “the highest virtue,” “the greatest of all virtues,” the virtue that was “peculiarly Christian.” The Christians believed that God is patient and that Jesus visibly embodied patience. And they concluded that they, trusting in God, should be patient - not controlling events, not anxious or in a hurry, and never using force to achieve their ends.

Alan Kreider

Let wrong-doing grow weary from your patience.

Tertullian