

1.

Jesus told the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is a bit like someone planting his field with good seed. He is very happy, but at night, when everyone is sleeping, his enemy creeps in and plants weeds among the wheat, then sneaks off again. So when the wheat starts to grow, the weeds grow too!

2.

'The servants then go to their master and ask him, "Sir, didn't you just plant good seed in your field? So where have all the weeds come from?" When the master tells them that an enemy has planted them, they ask, "So, shall we pull up the weeds?"

3.

But the master replies, "No, because if you pull up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat as well. Let them both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will send in the reapers, then the weeds can be collected up, tied into bundles and burned. The wheat can be harvested and put in my barn."

4.

Later, Jesus explained the parable to his disciples: 'Listen carefully. This is the story of my world. The master is the Son of Man, that's me. My friends are like the good seed, and my enemies are like the weeds that the devil has planted.

5.

The harvest is like the end of time, and my angels are the reapers who separate the wheat from the weeds in the field – the good and the evil in the world. All the evil is thrown away, like weeds on a bonfire, but all the good will shine like the sun in God's kingdom.