TITLE: the Curse of Weeds

TEXT: Genesis 3:17-19;Mt. 13:24-30, 37-43; Gen. 1:26-27, 3: 3:1-7, 17-19; John 3:16-17; Gen. 6:3-7;

1 Pet. 3:18

INTRODUCTION: This morning I want to talk about a part of the curse that was placed upon man when he first sinned in the Garden of Eden. Something that has been very prominent this time of year and that is weeds.

 Do you realize that weeds are a part of the curse and a result of man’s sin? That they did not exist in God’s original creation?

**Genesis 3:17-18(NIV)**  **17To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’      “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.**  **18It will produce thorns and thistles for you and you will eat the plants of the field.**

 Some of you here this morning farm or come from a farm back ground and know all about weeds more than most.

 Even if you don’t come from the farm you probably still know something about weeds. Especially this time of year with the lack of rain we have had.

 Weeds are really pretty amazing when you think about it.

 You can be in the middle of a severe drought; the crops you plant wither and die, your lawn turns brown, your flowers and shrubs wilt, yet weeds seem to flourish.

 I have seen fields of corn or beans that have been almost totally destroyed by drought and yet the thistles and ragweed would look great.

 I have always been a little particular about my lawn in town. One year with my shoulder situation I had really let my lawn go. The next year the crabgrass was driving me crazy. The stuff is tough and you can’t kill it this time of year.

 You have to wait until next spring and put down something with crabgrass preventer in it to keep it from germinating. That is fine for next year, but this was driving me crazy now.

 So I did something that I have previously laughed at other people for doing---going out and pulling it up a clump at a time.

 Weeds are hard to understand. I mean they are all plant life. What makes one grow is the same that makes the other grow-- Yet weeds seem to flourish when all other plant life can’t. Why?

 I believe that there is a Biblical answer for that question…

 Jesus told a parable that has become known as the parable of the weeds that really gives us some insight into the subject of weeds….

**Matt 13:24 (NIV) Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.**

**25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.**

**26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.**

**27 "The owner's servants came to him and said, `Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'**

**28 "`An enemy did this,' he replied.**

**"The servants asked him, `Do you want us to go and pull them up?'**

**29 "`No,' he answered, `because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them.**

**30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"**

 Here we have a farmer who went out and bought good seed, quality wheat seed and planted it in his field.

 While everyone was sleeping it says that an enemy came and sowed weed seeds in the field also.

 It goes unnoticed until the seeds began to sprout and then it became obvious that there are weeds growing along with the wheat.

 First---What is the problem? So what if there are weeds growing along with the wheat.

 Because the weeds will affect the growth of the wheat.

 The weeds will crowd some of the wheat out. They will take nutrients from the wheat that remains and the wheat that survives will not be as bountiful as it would have been if there were no weeds among them.

 Simply---the weeds will effect, will lessen the yield of the crop.

 That is why the servants wanted to go right in and pull the weeds up. But the master says no!

 If the weeds were pulled right away it would disrupt the soil that the good wheat is in and endanger the wheat crop, so the owner of the field says to let both grow together until the wheat is mature and ready for harvest, then go in and cut the weeds and throw them into the fire to be burned and then harvest the wheat.

 The wheat harvest wouldn’t be as good as it could have been but at least there would be a harvest.

 The disciples thought that this was a good story but they didn’t understand what all this talk about weeds had to do with the Kingdom of God..

 So later they asked Jesus to tell them what the point of the story really was….

 So Jesus explains the parable to them…..

 **Matt 13:37 (NIV) He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man.**

38 The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,

**39 and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.**

**40 "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age.**

**41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.**

**42 They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

**43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.**

What Jesus was really talking about was the origin and danger of sin.

 This parable tells about, actually parallels, the fall of man…..

 In the beginning, God, the master gardener planted the seed of man in the Garden of Eden.

 As planted it was good seed!

Gene 1:26 (NIV) Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

**27 So God created man in his own image,**

**in the image of God he created him;**

**male and female he created them.**

**Gene 1:31 (NIV) God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.**

At this point we have Gods perfect creation.

 The whole earth is filled just with the knowledge of good, the knowledge of God.

 Newly created man is Gods greatest creation, His greatest planting, if you will.

 Then what happens?

 An enemy comes in and sows weed seeds in God field!

**Gene 3:1 (NIV) Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, `You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"**

**2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,**

**3 but God did say, `You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"**

**4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.**

**5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."**

**6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.**

**7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.**

 With this temptation Satan sowed the first seeds of sin in Gods perfect creation. With sin came weeds!

 You see there were no weeds in Gods original creation.

 Weeds are a result of the cruse placed upon creation because of man’s sin.

**Gene 3:17 (NIV) To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, `You must not eat of it,'**

"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

**18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you,**

**and you will eat the plants of the field.**

**19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."**

 Because of man’s sin the very ground that was meant to sustain man falls under the curse of sin!

**18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you**

through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

**By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food**

**until you return to the ground.**

Thorns, thistles, weeds didn’t exist until after man sinned and fell from God’s grace….

Do you know what Gods purposes for weeds are?

 One reason, I believe, is to remind us of sin! To keep us mindful of sin and its consequence.

 God wasn’t being mean or vengeful here. He was being merciful…

 **It will produce thorns and thistles for you--**

Through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground.

This is an act of Gods mercy and grace..

 What God was doing was giving something to fallen man to keep him mindful of his sin and what the cost of sin is.

 Every time you see a thistle, a thorn, a weed such as crabgrass, let it remind you of sin and what sin has cost you.

 Work will become work!

**It will produce thorns and thistles for you**

Through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground.

 All that Adam and Eve had to do before sin was to pick and eat. Their food source was from the trees of the garden. Fruit trees, in the perfect environment that God had created for them in the Garden of Eden, would have needed no tending.

 There was no weeds, no pests; it was perfect climate control, no wind, no storms, no frost.

 I like to picture a constant 80 degrees 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year-- with very low humidity!

 Fruit is perpetual! In a perfect environment it would bear its fruit perpetually.

 The only thing that Adam and Eve had to do was fellowship with God, eat fruit and enjoy Gods creation!

 No work, no bills, no pressure, no problems, no sickness, no aging, no death!

 Think of something about your life that you don’t like- Anything?

 Whatever it is it is the result, the cost of sin…

 Don’t like to get up and have to go to work every day?

 Work is the result of sin.

 Don’t like the fact that you are getting older?

 It’s the result of sin.

 Don’t like to wake up stiff and sore?

 It is the result of sin.

 Don’t like to have to go to school?

 It is the result of sin. ( Adam & Eve had perfect knowledge and didn’t spend a day in school).

The point is everything that is not pleasant or not good in this world is the result of sin.

 Including all the weeds.

 Why would God place the cruse upon us if it was not to punish us?

 He did it because He loves us with a love that defies our comprehension.

 No curse and we would live forever in our sin….

 Think about that? Living forever separated from God by our sin with no hope of redemption.

 God had a plan to redeem man. The plan was Jesus.

**John 3:16 (NIV) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

**17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.**

The plan was Jesus but something had to be done to keep man mindful of his sinful state until the promised redeemer would come, so that when He came people would reach out and grasp hold of Him.

 The curse and all it entailed serves that very purpose.

 If God had not placed the curse on mankind, mankind would never have reached out for Gods redemption when it came.

 We know that’s true…

 When things are going good we often think that we have no need for God.

 Often, we reach out to God only after the bottom drops out of our world.

 More people have come to Christ in times of adversity in their life then have come to Him when everything is going good.

 Example: We all have probably known people who come to God only when facing trial or tribulation and as soon as the trial is over they seem to turn back away from God.

 If there was no curse there would be no real motivation for us to mend our relationship with God. Or at least not enough motivation for most of us to do so.

Think about it? No curse means no sickness, no aging and no death!

 Man would have gotten progressively more evil with nothing to limit our wickedness.

 We see that this is exactly what happened just before the flood in Noah’s day.

 In Gen. Chapter 5, before the flood, we have some genealogies listed, the first 10 generations of man:

Adam lived 930 years. Enosh lived 905 years, Kenan lived 910 years, Mahalalel lived 895 years, Jared lived 962 years, Enoch lived 365 years (God took him directly to Heaven as a young man because of his goodness),

 Methuselah lived 969 years, Lamech lived 777 years!

 Noah was 500 years old when God told him to start building an ark!

 People lived a long time back then. But what we need to understand is that as long as they lived, they still all died young!

 Man, as created was created immortal! He was created to live forever! Had man not sinned man would have never died because death was part of the curse! With sin came death!

 But with a sinful nature 800-900 years was far too long for man to live and cultivate his sinfulness..

**Gene 6: 5 The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.**

**6 The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.**

**7 So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth-- --for I am grieved that I have made them."**

 Man had become progressively more and more evil with each passing year! Even the fear of death didn’t detour man’s wickedness, so God drastically cuts the amount of time man is given on earth…

**Gene 6:3 (NIV) Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."**

 And After the flood we see that the lifespan of man is cut to a max of 120 years, which it is still today!

 Again we see the grace and mercy of God!

 Just imagine what our world would be like today if wicked men such as Hitler or Nero had 800-900 years to wreak their wickedness upon the earth!!

 The point this morning is this; we can see the love and mercy and grace of God even within the cruse that God has placed upon man.

 He even gave us little things such as weeds, not just to remind us of our sin, but to point us toward Jesus…

 Example: You can have a patch of weeds like the crabgrass was all over my yard. You can go out and pull and pull them, but they keep coming back----You apply a good herbicide such as Roundup, and it gets them all! It kills the weeds all the way down to the root so that they don’t come back.

Here is the point of the message this morning----

Jesus Christ is our Spiritual herbicide.

Jesus is the (sinicide) that eradicates sin.

And He is the only product on the market that will do so…

When applied to our life Jesus can kill sin at its root!

 But before it will work it has to be applied!

Have you applied the spiritual herbicide of Jesus to your life this morning?

 Have you allowed Him, are you allowing Him, to eradicate all the sin in your life, past, present and future sin.

 When applied to our life by inviting Him into our heart to be the Lord and savior of our life, surrendering our life to Him, He can kill sin right down to the root…

 It is only Jesus that can literally remove our sins from us and bring us back into fellowship and right relationship with God.

1Pet 3:18 (NIV) For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

 Have you been brought back to God through the blood of Christ having been applied to your life this morning?

 If you have, are you daily allowing Him to eradicate the weeds of sin in your life, so when the day of His return comes, you will be among the wheat that will be harvested into His glorious Kingdom, hearing Him say to you “well done good and faithful servant”.

Close with Hymn “Nothing but the blood “ Page. 212