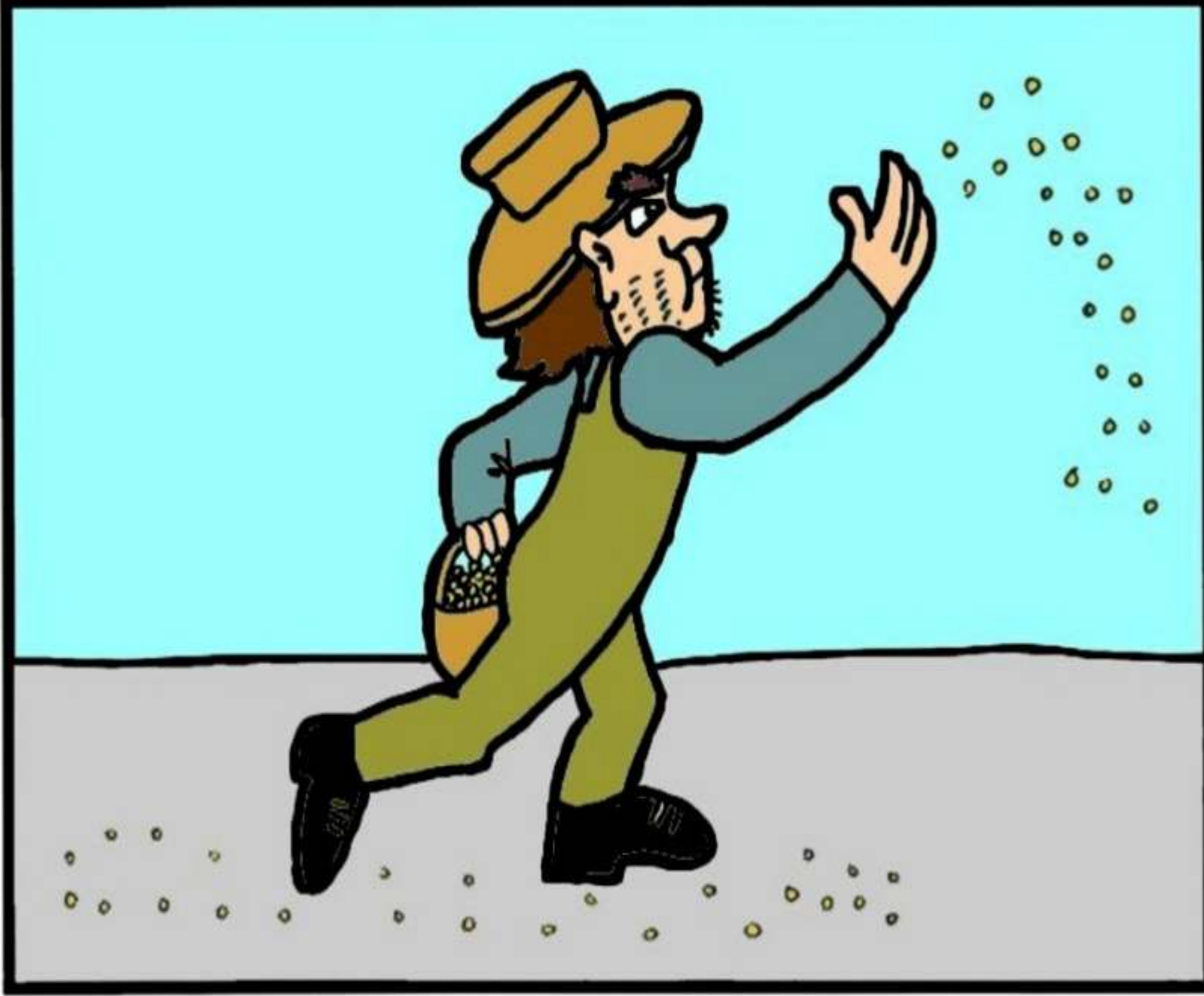


# Parables of the Harvest

(Based on Mark 4:26-29, Matthew 13:24-30,  
Matthew 13:36-43)

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Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is like a man who threw seeds on the ground.



Then he went to bed at night and woke up in the morning, day after day. All this time the seed was sprouting and growing, but the man didn't know how it was happening. The earth was taking care of growing the seed into a mature plant, all by itself.



When the fruit is ripe then the man cuts down the stalk and brings in the harvest.”



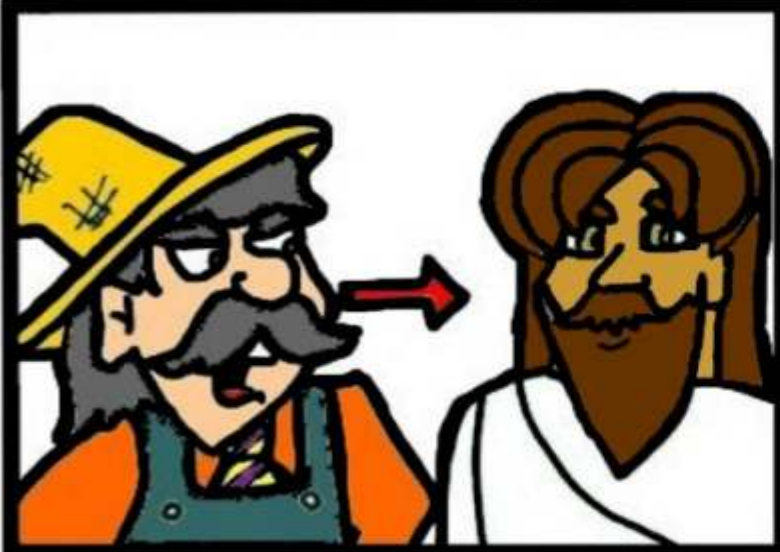
Jesus told another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like a man that planted good seeds in his field but while he was sleeping an enemy came and threw weed seeds on the field.



The good seeds began to grow but so also did the weeds. The servants came to the landowner and said, 'Sir didn't we plant good seeds in the field? Where did these weeds come from?' 'An enemy did this,' answered the landowner. 'Do you want us to go into the field and pull up all the weeds?' asked the servants.



‘No,’ answered the landowner. ‘You might end up pulling out the good wheat plants as you pull up the weeds. Let them both grow together until the harvest time. Then I will tell the servants to take all the weeds and burn them, but gather the wheat and put it into my barn.’”



Later Jesus' disciples asked him to explain the parable about the weeds in the field. "He that planted the good seeds is Me. The field is the world. The good seeds are God's kids but the weeds are the children of the evil one. The enemy who planted the weed seeds is the devil.



The harvest servants are the angels. Just like the weeds were gathered and burned, this is the way it will be at the end of the world. I will send out my angels and they will gather all the things that cause people to fall into sin and all the people that promote sin and throw them into a furnace of fire.



There they will weep and grind their teeth, but God's kids will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He that has ears, let him listen!"



Lord, help me to always be ready for when you come back. Help me to keep sin out of my heart and choose my friends wisely.