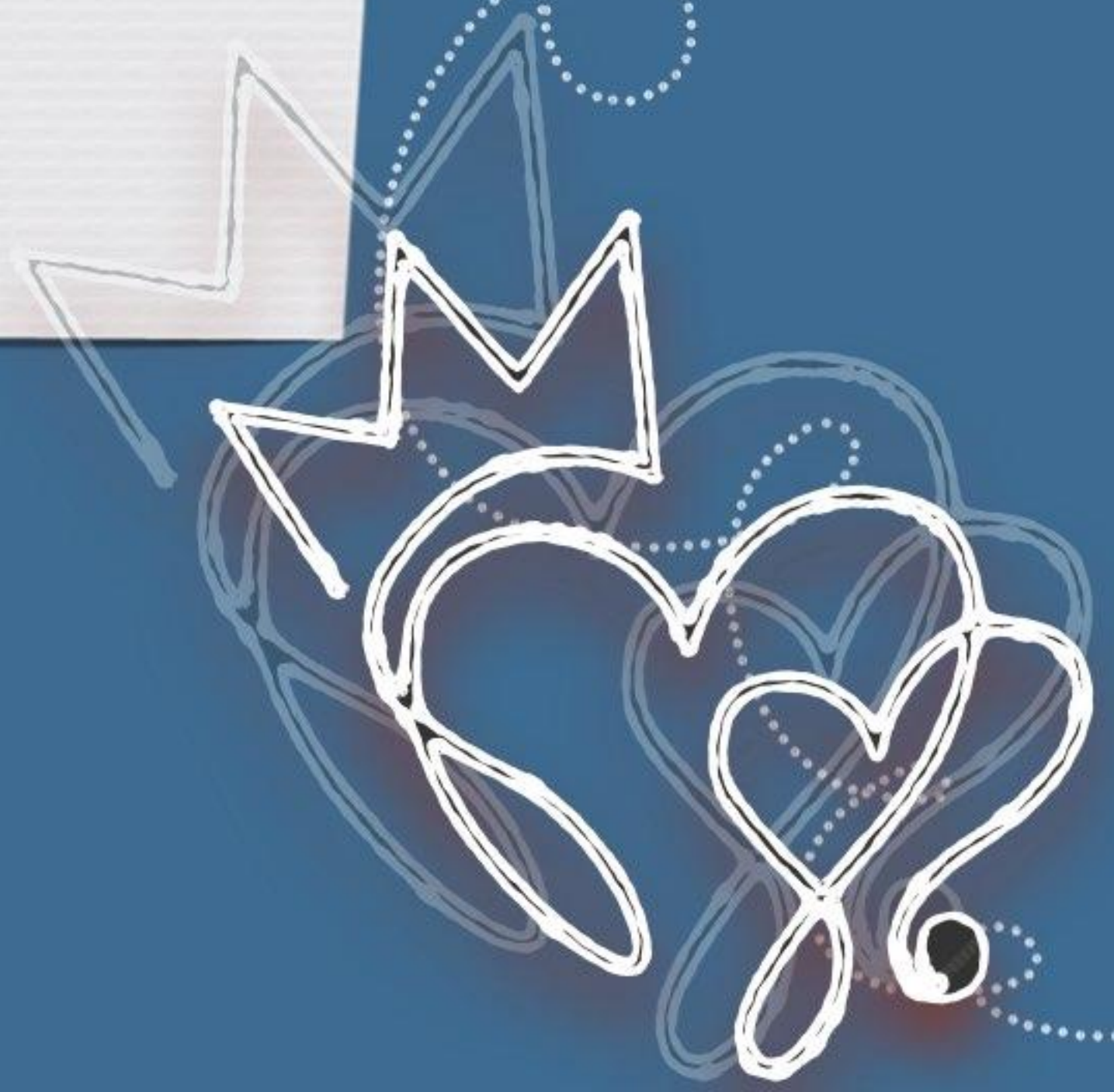


**The Kingdom of Heaven is like...**

**Growing in God's Heart**





# Kingdom Priorities

- ▶ This year (and always) we want to line our priorities up with The Lord's
- ▶ You must truly get to know a person to find out what is truly important to them
- ▶ As we draw near and learn the heart of the King, He becomes the King of our hearts





‘Talk about my heart’





# His Heart

- ▶ I might have expected this to mean His heart of Fatherly love toward us as His children or compassion for the poor or for justice
- ▶ His heart is absolutely all those things
- ▶ But the heart of the King is expressed in His Kingship which is manifest in His KINGDOM (domain of the king)





‘The Kingdom of Heaven is like...’





# Kingdom People

- ▶ Our top priority at Elim Aberystwyth in 2026 is growing in discipleship - as individuals and a community following Jesus/Yehoshua
- ▶ He said His purpose in using parables was to give the knowledge of the Kingdom to those who would be His disciples (Matt 13:12)



24 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.

Matthew 13



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?’

Matthew 13





29 “No,” he answered, “because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot 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.””

Matthew 13



36 Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

37 He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man.



# Wheat and Weeds





# Kingdom Parables

- ▶ The parables were deliberately designed to enlighten those who have ears to hear, whilst condoning those who didn't
- ▶ His desire is for His disciples to understand Him
- ▶ We have the advantage with this particular parable of the interpretation being laid out





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

Matthew 13



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.

Matthew 13





42 They will throw them into the blazing 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.  
Whoever has ears, let them hear.

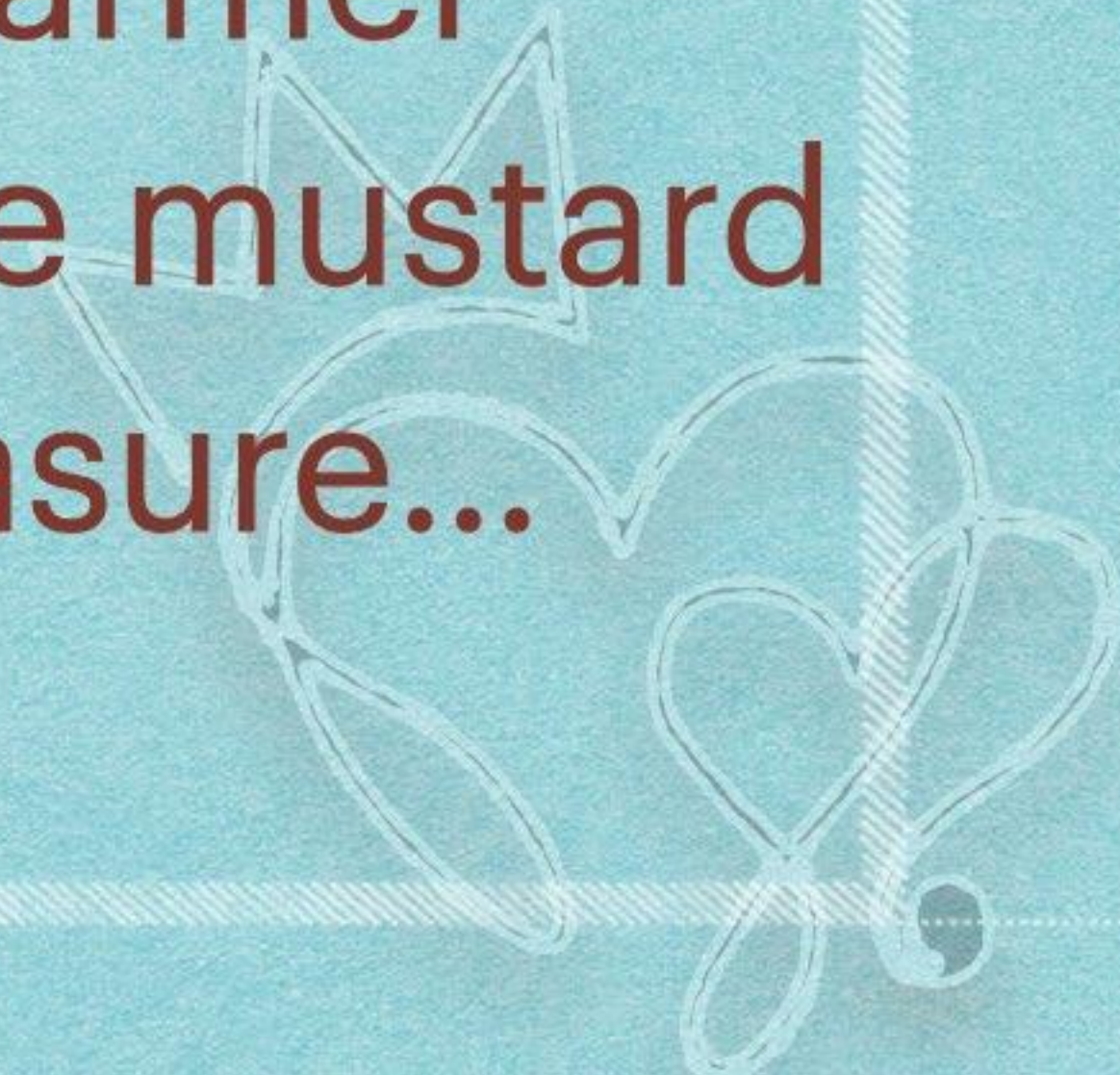
Matthew 13





Jesus isn't surprised or thrown by these diverse responses. In fact, he focuses on them in the third large block of teaching starting in chapter 13. Here, Matthew has collected many of Jesus' parables about the Kingdom: the farmer throwing seed on four types of soil, the mustard seed, the pearl, and the buried treasure...

– [bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-matthew/](https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-matthew/)





... These parables are like a commentary on the stories that you've just read. Some accept Jesus with enthusiasm, while others reject him, but God's Kingdom will continue spreading despite these obstacles.

– [bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-matthew/](https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-matthew/)





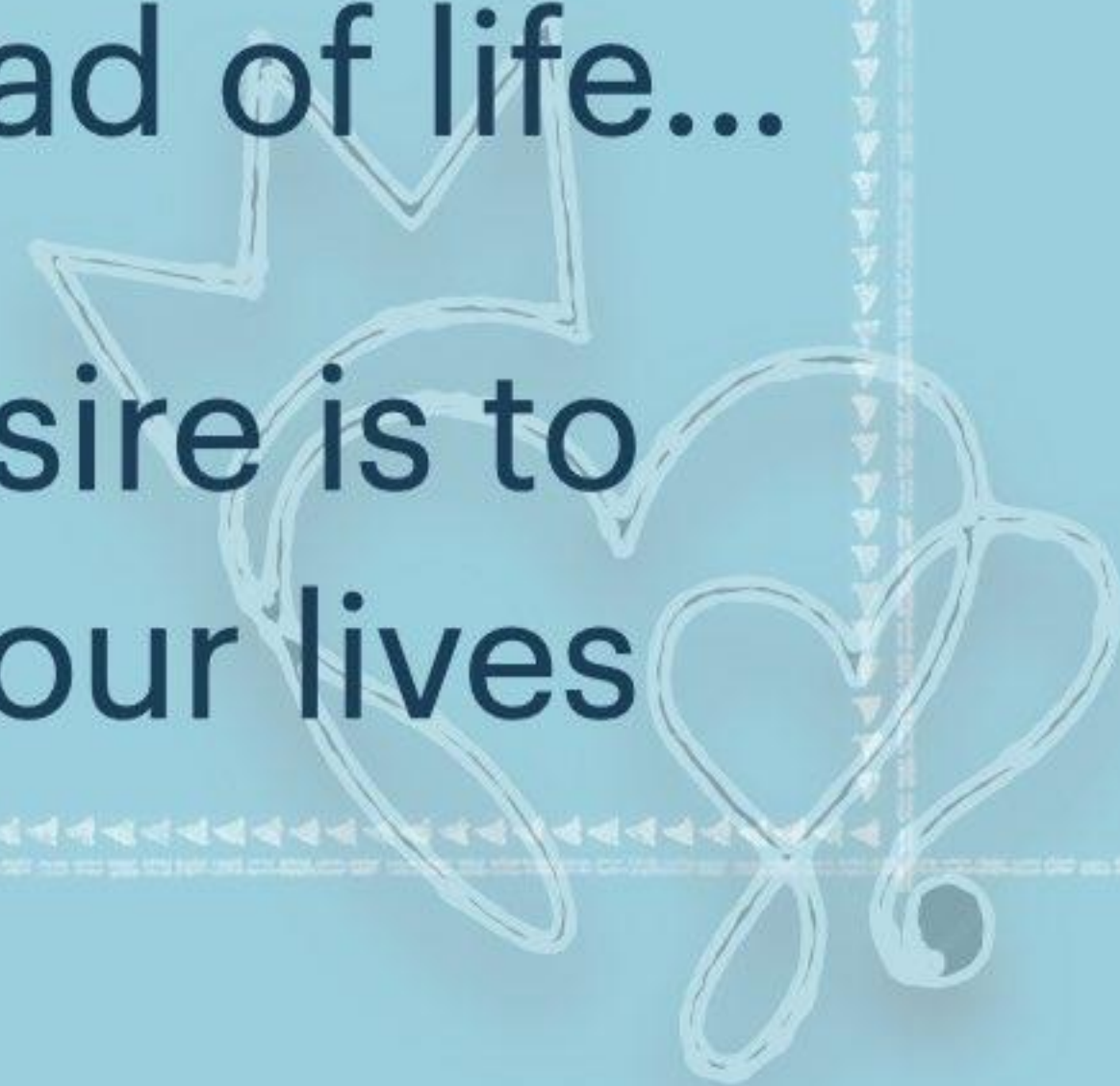
So what can the parable of the weeds teach us today about the heart of God?





# Grow in the Heart of God

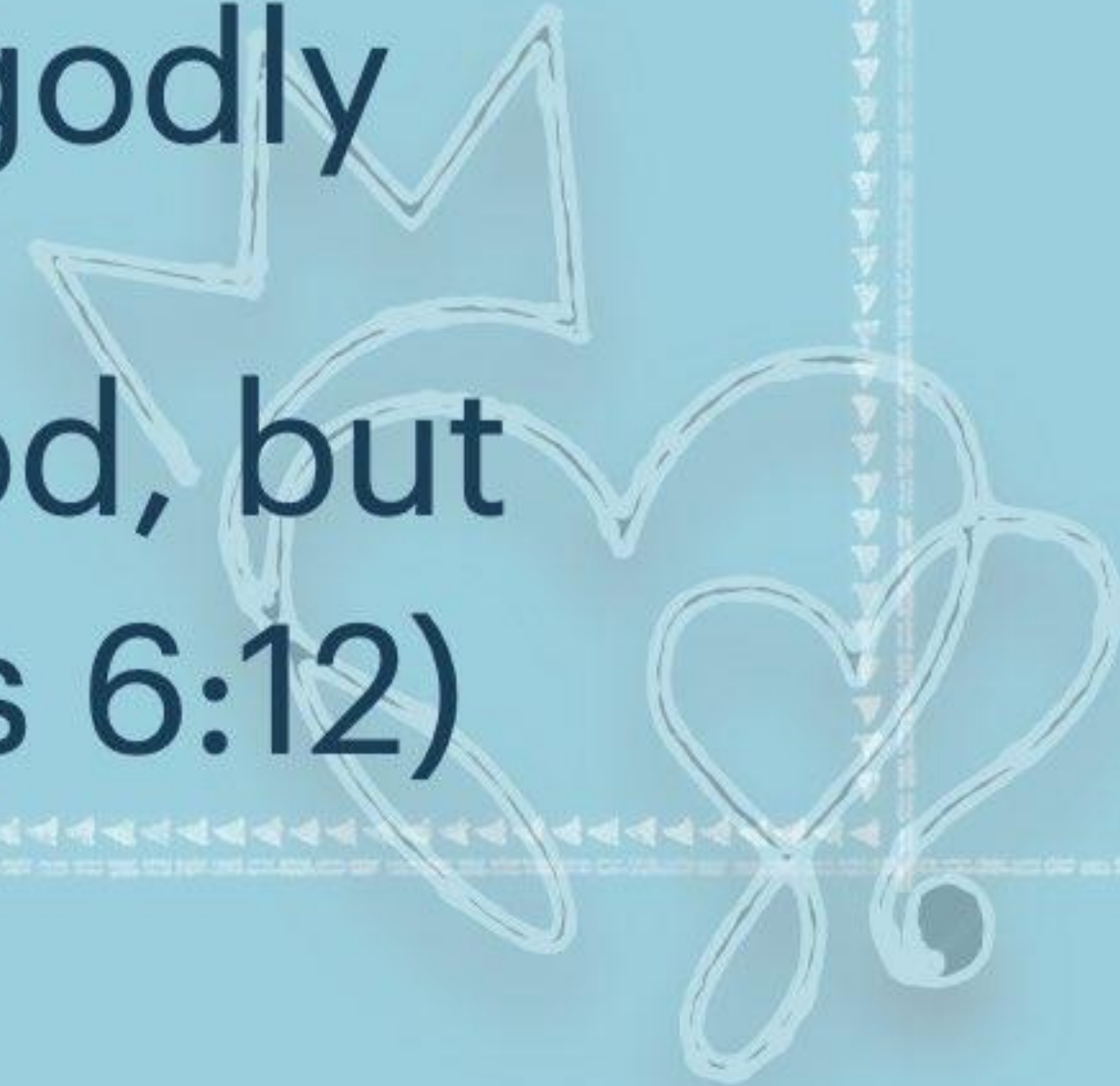
- ▶ What comes from Him to us is good
- ▶ He desires for us to grow strong and be fruitful in His light, water and soil - He is the way, the truth and the life; the vine; the source, the bread of life...
- ▶ There is an enemy of our souls whose desire is to bring death, destruction and distraction our lives





# Grow in the Heart of God

- ▶ Even though every seed sown by the Son of Man was good, bad things grew there too
- ▶ The reality of the world we are in is a tension between what is godly and what is ungodly
- ▶ Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against dark spiritual forces (Ephesians 6:12)





# Grow in the Heart of God

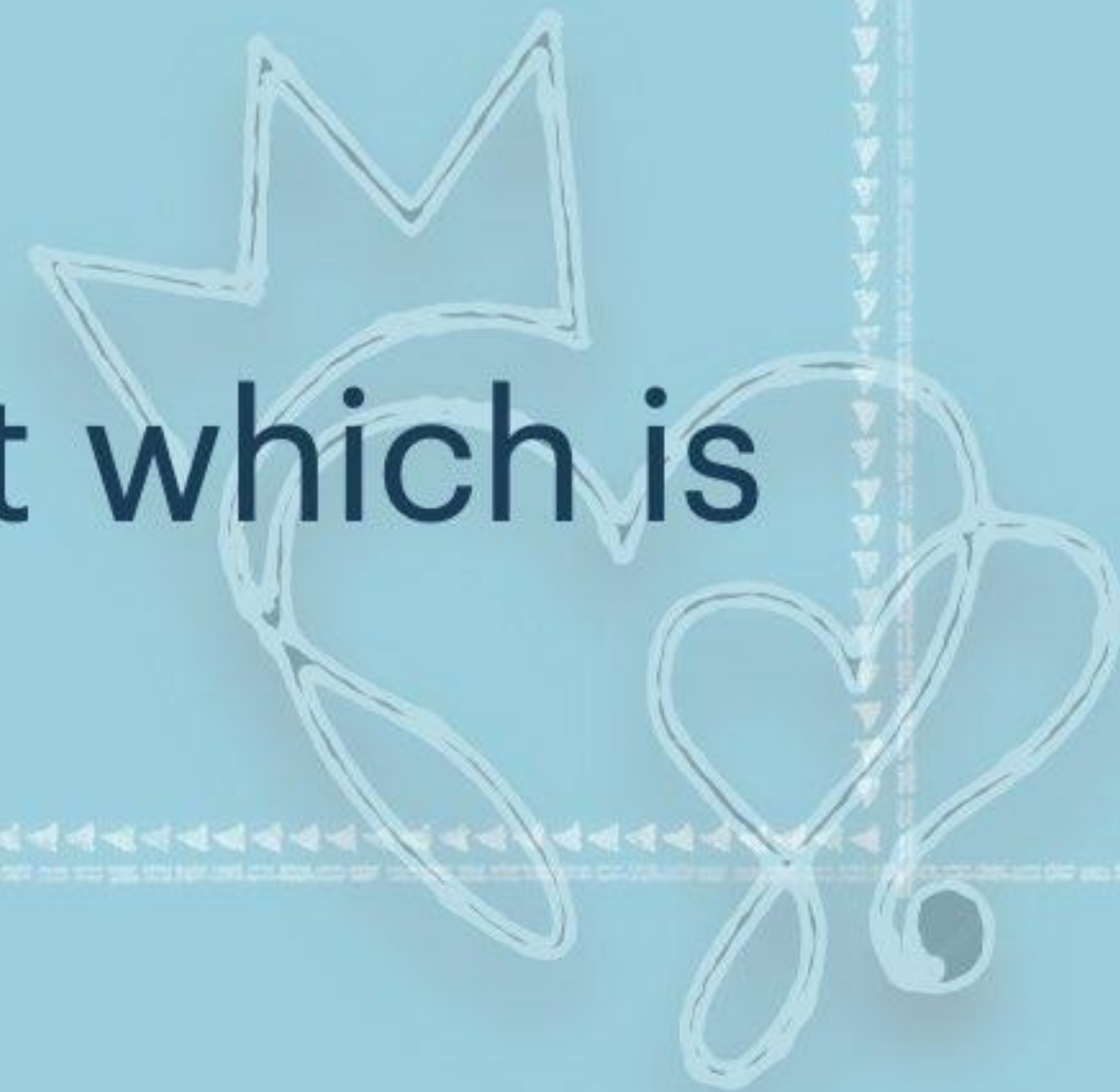
- ▶ God is patient and wants to give every opportunity for what is good to grow, even if that means the bad growing alongside it
- ▶ Perhaps there is purpose in our waiting - He knows the right time to bring in the harvest





# Grow in the Heart of God

- ▶ There is a coming harvest that we are waiting for when all will be made right
- ▶ There will be justice for the enemy and those determined to do evil and cause sin
- ▶ For what is good come to the fore, that which is evil has to be dealt with and removed





# Grow in the Heart of God

- ▶ There is a coming triumph when the righteous will 'shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father'
- ▶ The God of truth and justice has been revealed and reconciled to us in Jesus, the Son of Man
- ▶ We have been righteous by faith in the Son (Romans 3:22) and we have become the righteous in Him...





20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors,  
as though God were making his appeal  
through us. We implore you on Christ's  
behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made  
him who had no sin to be sin for us, so  
that in him we might become the  
righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5



The Son of Righteousness will  
come and the through Him  
righteous will shine like the sun!





‘Whoever has ears,  
let them hear’

