



June 13/14, 2020
Confident in the Conflict
Matthew 13:24-43 Ryan
Paulson, Lead Pastor

Evil opposes _____, but it must
be confronted with _____.

- Grasp the complexity of _____.
- Trust the power and methodology of _____.
- Live today in light of _____.

→ _____

Perseverance: Don't let a lack of _____ prevent
you from continuing to live in the _____.

→ _____

Confidence: Don't let the _____ determine your
view of _____.

→ _____

Devotion: Don't change your _____ because of the
_____.

ONLINE SERMON & STUDY RESOURCES

Read or sign up for our daily devotional at www.efcc.org/devotionals or on our Emmanuel Faith CC app. Or catch our sermons online at www.efcc.org/sermons.

June 13/14,2020
ESSENTIAL STORIES
Confident in the Conflict
Matthew 13:24-43
Lead Pastor, Ryan Paulson

(Sermon fill-in notes and Scripture references)

“Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.” Amen. But it doesn’t say that God controls every little detail of everything. (Psalm 115:3)

Sovereignty does not mean God directly controls everything, it means God can do anything.

Evil opposes **God’s kingdom**, but it must be confronted with **God’s methods**.

28 He said to them, “An enemy has done this.” So the servants said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” (Matthew 13:28)

29 But he said, “No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them.” (Matthew 13:29)

Grasp the complexity of **badness**.

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7)

10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (1 John 3:10)

“If only it were all so simple! If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being.” - Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

30 Let both grow together until the harvest... (Matthew 13:30a)

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” John Stuart Mill

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” (Matthew 5:43-45)

Trust the power and methodology of **goodness**.

Jesus is teaching us that the best way to confront evil is to grow the influence of the kingdom!

30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."

(Matthew 13:30)

39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, 42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place 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. (Matthew 13:39-43)

Live today in light of **eternity**.

Perseverance

Perseverance: Don't let a lack of **visual progress** prevent you from continuing to live in the **way of love**.

Confidence

Confidence: Don't let the **growth you see** determine your view of **God's capacity**.

Devotion

Devotion: Don't change your **method** because of the **madness**.