

## *Lessons from the Garden: "Worshipping the Weed"*

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Job 12:7-8. But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee.

I was doing my weekend warrior, spring plantings, when my back started to spasm. I prayed, "Abba, let me finish planting these flowers and I will plant them to your glory and as a part of my worship". Well, I was able to continue with my gardening and was mowing the weeds, er I mean the lawn. And I saw a few grape hyacinths (like the picture) growing in the lawn outside the flower bed. I debated over what to do, they are beautiful plants that grow in a carpet and smell heavenly, and I have spent many years planting, and transplanting them and watching them grow, but they were not growing where they were supposed to be growing. With a bit of a heavy heart, I mowed over them. This made me wonder if Yahuah feels pain pruning us (John 15:2), or even mowing us over, even though it is for our own good. It also reminded me of what a weed is

Dictionary.com's definition of Weed - a plant considered undesirable, unattractive, or troublesome, especially one growing where it is not wanted, as in a garden.

Webster's definition of Weed - a plant that is not valued where it is growing and is usually of vigorous growth; especially: one that tends to overgrow or choke out more desirable plants

As a naturalist gardener and a biologist, it always tickles me that people spend so much money purchasing "exotic ornamentals" instead of gardening with indigenous plants. "Exotic ornamentals" are plants that are from somewhere else, usually some other growing zone, you

so pay money to import them and pay money to upkeep them, since they do not have the light, nutrient, and water requirements they would in their home habitat (i.e. Bermuda grass). In a lot of cases, these "exotic ornamentals" are considered weeds where they originate (i.e. privet, purple loosestrife, honeysuckle, water hyacinth), but because they are "not from around here" (Luke 4:24), they are desired for their beauty and in some cases, because they are so expensive to acquire and maintain. However, these same plants, that are so desired under one condition, are plain ole weeds in another circumstance.

Ok, enough with the horticulture, what does this have to do with Yahuah's plan.

Yahuah has a purpose for each of us. He wants us to grow in the areas that He has ordained. In ways that will bring Kabod to his kingdom.

Ok, let me talk about gardening one more time. There is something called "companion planting". Companion planting is when you plant certain types of plants together because they benefit each other when grown in close proximity. For example, I plant my bush beans seeds first and in between all my other plant-lings because they grow quickly and help to shade out the weeds as well as providing nitrogen for the soil. I intersperse marigolds between the vegetables because they keep away pest insects but invite pollinators with their colorful blooms. (For more on companion planting, visit <https://www.windowbox.com/resources-links/companion-planting-chart-for-vegetables> )

Yahuah has a specific purpose for each member in his body. (1 Corinthians 12:4-31) Imagine how silly it would be if your eye decided that it wanted to support the weight of the body, and it wanted to run a 10K race. Yet many of us are not doing what Yahuah wants us to do, how when and where Yahuah wants us to do it.

We are each born with some talent, or talents, but unless they are used to the Kabod of Yahuah, they become like a weed. (1 Corinthians 14:12)

A weed is a plant that is growing where (or when) it's not supposed to grow. It's "doing its own thing" (like the old Sesame Street puzzle, "which of these people are doing their own thing..."). The "weed" may be pretty, it may be vigorous, it may be desirable to some, but NOT to the gardener. And only one thing happens to weeds...they get PLUCKED.

The fig tree that was not bearing fruit, as it should, so it relegated itself to weed status. It was growing, but not producing fruit, it got plucked. (Matthew 21:19-20, Mark 11:13-20, Luke 13:6-7)

You may have a beautifully voice that brings people to tears, but if it is not being used as Yahuah ordained, you're just a weed, careful, before you get plucked.

You may think that you can bring a rhema word, but Yahuah told you to intercede in prayer, you're a weed, watch for the hand that plucketh.

You want to work in the foreground, even though Yahuah has purposed you to work behind the scenes, oh uh, that is a weedism, watch for the pluck.

Thank You heavenly Father for lessons in every creature of Your creation. Thank You for the flowers, the trees and even the weeds. We pray for the vigor and resilience of ruach of the weed but ask you to give us the wisdom to grow where You desire, and where we will be best positioned for Your work, Your Kabod, Your purposes. Thank You for inviting us to be a part of Your garden and we look forward to making You proud, by reflecting your vision and fragrance of love.