

# Thanks for the Encouragement!

by Allison Gilliam

**All of us look like weeds some of the time. It's isn't our job  
to determine who is or who isn't.**

*(A lovely arrangement of flowers is displayed in front. A woman comes in with her gardening hat and gloves on, carrying a bouquet of weeds.)*

**WOMAN #2** I DO look like *(someone in the church known for her gardening expertise)*! *(Addressing the congregation)*  
Don't you think?

**WOMAN #1** Good morning! My, what do we have here?

**WOMAN #2** Oh, I just gathered these from my garden.

**WOMAN #1** Yes, well, is this what you planted?

**WOMAN #2** Yes...no...I know they don't much look like what was pictured on the container, but that's what I got.

**WOMAN #1** Tell me, have you been gardening long?

**WOMAN #2** No, I'm new at this, but I'm determined to grow beautiful flowers, no matter how long it takes. And, I think I'll have a garden shed; you know, one of those lovely Victorian sheds with shutters on the windows and a cupola to top it off. Oh, yes, and maybe a flagstone path, and . . .

Thanks for The Encouragement, cont.

**WOMAN #1** Wo! That all sounds lovely, but what has that got to do with growing healthy plants? You need to ask an expert or . . . do some reading.

**WOMAN #2** Oh! Well, I . . . did notice that the leaves on all the plants I thought would be beautiful are yellow. These, on the other hand, are quite prolific.

**WOMAN #1** Have you tried feeding them?

**WOMAN #2** No, but . . .

**WOMAN #1** I see. I tell you what let's do. Let's add some of these (*she takes some flowers from the ones displayed*). We'll just mix them with yours. There. See how much better they look?

**WOMAN #2** Oh, yes! That makes my bouquet much more beautiful, and it makes me want to keep at the job of growing better plants. Thanks for the encouragement! (*The women hug as they leave.*)

Following this, someone can read Matthew 13:24-30. Choruses that might follow are "Come, Holy Spirit," Maranatha! Music and "Make Me a Servant," Maranatha! Music/Willing Heart Music.

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