

PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM - Part III The Parable of the Wheat and Tares

Text: Matthew 13: 24-30; 36-43

Key Word: Seed

Key Thought: God Will Deal with Those Who Are Pretending to Belong to Him

This is the second parable recorded by Matthew and the last one which Jesus explained. With slightly different approaches each parable considers a different aspect of the Kingdom of God.

Through this parable we have introduced the problem of evil in our world. In the Parable of the Sower we looked at 4 different kinds of soil. **Here we concentrate more on the type of seed than the type of soil.**

It seems very clear that life always has its problems. We must continually learn how to properly respond to problems in life. This parable has been used to bring balance back to God's people.

One Aspect of this Parable Must Be Highlighted Before Going into Detail with the Rest of it.

The Field - Some expositors have assumed that the field represents the Church. They often speak of the "church within the church" or the "remnant." **But in this case "the field" is "the world" (Matthew 13:24,38) NOT the Church.**

This parable is made up of a series of parallel thoughts which are set out in contrast to each other. **What is this parable trying to tell us in these parallels?**

I. THE TWO SOWERS (13:24,25,37,39)

- A. Son of Man
- B. The Enemy

II. THE TWO PRODUCTS

- A. Wheat
- B. Tares

III. THE TWO QUESTIONS

- A. Didn't You Sow the Seed/Why the Tares?
- B. Do you Want us to Pull them Up?

IV. THE TWO HARVESTS

- A. Bundles
- B. Barn

I. THE TWO SOWERS (Matthew 13:24,25,37,39)

A. The Son of Man - It is very clear from the Scriptures that the sower who had sown good seed was representing Jesus.

"the one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man."

Matthew 13:37

As our creator God, He made man in His image and planted holy principles and aspirations in Adam and Eve. The Scriptures show us that AFTER God made everything He said,

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

Genesis 1:31

God does not create sin or death or destruction. What He makes is GOOD - REALLY GOOD. God not only makes the ice cream, He also makes the rich, tasty toppings. No wonder He called His first habitat for mankind the "**Garden of Eden**" which means "**delight**." It was the most delightful place that God could have placed Adam into.

B. The Enemy (Adversary) - The word that Jesus used to describe His enemy was "**echthros**" which means "**the hate**" or "**an adversary**." Here now stands the truth that in this world that was originally created without sin came one who hated God and all He stood for.

"He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of all lies."

John 8:44

The devil has always been the enemy of God. The Trinity seems to continuously stand in direct opposition to the works of the devil.

1. The Father and the world - I John 2:15
2. The Spirit and the flesh - Galatians 5:17
3. The Son and Satan - Genesis 3:15

The enemy sowed in a field that did not belong to him. He did so at night when God's people were resting. It shows the cowardly nature of his diabolical work. The devil loves darkness because his deeds are evil. **He sows his tares/weeds with the distinct intent of spoiling the harvest.**

II. THE TWO PRODUCTS

A. The Wheat - Our Lord was responsible for sowing the good Seed into the earth. This is a product of His precious Word. The Seed is recognized as good when it is received, understood AND obeyed by "the children of the kingdom."

God only sows good Seed. He cannot sow anything but that which is good. It would be against everything He is and stands for to produce something evil. When He could do no more with just the **Written Word**, He sent forth His Son to be the **Living Word**.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

14. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 1:1,14

What a contrast in what Jesus produced and what the devil produces. We now have become God's offspring who have been sown as wheat in the fields of this world. **Where we live and labour has become our field.**

"Grow where you've been planted"

B. The Tares/Weeds - The "*tares*" or "*weeds*" are better understood to be a common seed called "*darnel*." It is almost impossible to distinguish from the wheat seed. The darnel will grow to become a wild corn in which its food product is poisonous. The devil works a very successful counterattack on the work of the gospel which Dr. Scroggie terms

"opposition by imitation"

A few years ago there was a commercial with Don Cherry which had the punch line, "*You may imitate me but you can't duplicate me.*"

Sowing tares among the wheat was a form of subtle revenge. It was against the law of Rome to do so. It would require great labour to get rid of it. Much of the weed would reproduce by itself every growing season. Anytime the good seed would grow, this weed would also take root and grow up with it side by side. These seeds are described as . . .

"The weeds are the sons of the evil one."

Matthew 13:38b

II. THE TWO PRODUCTS (Contd.)

B. The Tares/Weeds (Contd.)

The devil makes sure that as soon as God begins to do good in an area that he also begins to plant some of his bad seeds amongst us. We must always remember that the enemy is the trespasser among us. The earth belongs to God even though it appears that the devil's weeds have outgrown us.

There is no sure way of distinguishing between these two seeds until they begin to grow. Even experts cannot detect the darnel from the wheat when it springs forth from the ground. **It is not until they come to their point of maturity that the difference becomes clear.** Weeds do not produce grain.

"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

21. Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.'"

Matthew 7:19-21

III. THE TWO QUESTIONS

A. Didn't You Sow the Seed/Why the Tares? - The question about the origin of sin has continued to find its place in the debates around Biblical teaching.

1. Why did God allow the serpent into Paradise?
2. Why was Judas permitted to be counted with the twelve?
3. Why was the early church almost destroyed by false teachers?
4. Why does God allow sin and sorrow to remain if He initially made a Garden of Eden?
5. Why do good people suffer?

Jesus answered this probing question,

"An enemy did this"

Matthew 13:28

III. THE TWO QUESTIONS (Contd.)

A. Didn't You Sow the Seed/Why the Tares? (Contd.)

What God has sown in the world is still good. We need to concentrate on overcoming sin in this world rather than trying to find why the war is on. Satan is a reality. He will be destroyed soon. Our duty is to reproduce our own.

B. Do You Want Us to Pull Them Up?

It seems like we are always eager to help out God. Do we think sometimes that He is not concerned with what is happening? There is a very good reason for waiting a while.

If we try to get rid of "the weeds" of this world, we may misjudge what really is of God and what isn't. There is often a striking resemblance to what God sows and what the devil sows but not in all cases. The devil is an excellent counterfeiter. **The right separation was beyond the wisdom of the owner's servants.** We must all learn that God has a correct time to fulfil His purposes. Our zeal in trying to uproot something may bring forth death in something God has sown!

We will continue to have those like Ananias and Sapphira as well as ones like Simon Magnus' actively working beside us trying to look like us. **Our Duty Is to Sow the Truth of God's Word into the Hearts of Anyone Who Will Accept It.**

IV. THE TWO HARVESTS

A. Bundles - The Bible makes it clear that this will happen at *"the end of the age"* (Matthew 13:39). The harvest will take place in the field (the world).

It is very interesting to notice how quickly the bundles are being bound together for their ultimate destination.

- 1. Commercially** - Our world is quickly forming itself into giant conglomerates of syndicates, unions, and corporations to dominate industry and commerce. Even clubs, fraternities and organizations are joining in a last ditch effort to save themselves from destruction.
- 2. Politically** - We have the United Nations, Commonwealth, Common Markets,
- 3. Religiously** - Roman Catholics, Protestants, Jews, and Muslims are forming together in a last futile ecumenical force.

IV. THE TWO HARVESTS (Contd.)

B. Barn - The Bible also makes it very clear that there will be a destination for God's seed. He has prepared a **divine barn** called **heaven** to contain all the good seed. **There will be no tares allowed in that dwelling place just as there will be no wheat in the fire.**

Jesus has gone to prepare that place for us. It is our reward for faithfulness and obedience. Only God knows when that day will come. **Our duty until then is to grow and develop the fruit of righteousness in our lives. God's angels will decide whether people make it into bundles or the barn.**

With all this said, I hope your heart and mind are more at ease about the process that is taking place around you. No amount of prayer and fasting will completely stop what the devil is up to. But we can influence the outcome by doing our best to see God's Word sown into this world.

C:\Documents\WPWin(X9)Sermons.19\Parables/Matthew13_24.30.wpd

Date: Feb 17/19

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus - F

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II. THE TWO PRODUCTS

A. The Wheat - *John 1:1,14*

B. The Tares/Weeds - *Matthew 13:38b; Matthew 7:19-21*

III. THE TWO QUESTIONS

A. Didn't You Sow the Seed/Why the Tares? - *Matthew 13:28*

B. Do You Want Us to Pull Them Up?

IV. THE TWO HARVESTS

A. Bundles - *Matthew 13:39*

1. Commercially
2. Politically
3. Religiously

B. Barn -