

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 – The Wheat & The Tares

Introduction

1. The previous parables uses the same symbols as this parable, but eh meaning and definition of the symbols are different
2. The reason Jesus taught in parables: To conceal from some and reveal to others the truth of the Kingdom of God (KOG)

Main Point: Believers, the Sons of the Kingdom, are the good seed Jesus has sown into the world. The weeds are the seed of the serpent, the sons of the Devil. The children of God and the offspring of Satan will both be harvested at the close of the age, one to eternal life, shining as the Sun, the other to eternal destruction and torment in Hell.

Two Sowers (Matthew 13:24-25, 36-37, 38b-39a)

1. The Jews expected Apocalypse NOW! What they were taught by the Messiah was that there would be opposition & a time of growth before the Day – there will be, for a time, a Mixed Kingdom
2. Jesus gives a picture of the KOG between the first & second Advent
3. A Good Farmer will sow good seed, and an enemy sows bad
 - a. The Good Farmer – the Son of Man
 - i. *The Son of Man* – Jesus’ favorite title for Himself, taken from Daniel’s vision of the KOG and Messiah King (**v13-14**)
 - ii. The Son of Man defines the Kingdom of God
 - iii. He sows the good seed as the Landowner of the Field
 - iv. He makes sure good seed falls on good soil for He paid for this seed with His life and blood – none will be lost
 - b. The Enemy of the KOG – the Devil, the serpent of Genesis 3
 - i. He is the accuser, the tempter, the thwarter of God’s work, the devouring lion – working inside and outside the church seeking to steal, kill, and destroy
 - ii. We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and the powers of darkness
 - iii. He attempts to subvert the purposes of the Landowner

One Field (Matthew 13:24-25, 38)

1. The field belongs to the Landowner – it is the world
 - a. The Son of Man rules and reigns over the world, the *Cosmos*
 - b. Satan is the god of the world (1 Cor 4), but is confined to rule those who are perishing – Satan and his seed are under the jurisdiction of King Jesus (**Colossians 1:16**)
2. The field is NOT the Church, although the church exists within the KOG, for the KOG encompasses the whole world
 - a. Within the world and the church, there are the seed of the Kingdom and the seed of the serpent
 - b. Our Ecclesiology is Important Here

- i. Augustine – there is a City of God, and a City of Man, no need to purify the church for both will live side by side
- ii. Calvin and Luther, along with many reformers carried this idea – they did not see the need for regenerate church membership, nor in some cases, redemptive church discipline – their idea of the state church formed their ecclesiology, a mixed congregation of good and bad seed

Two Seeds (Matthew 13:24-25, 38)

1. In the previous parables, the seed was the Word. This is not so here – the Seed is either the sons of the Kingdom sown by the Son of Man or the sons of the evil one sown by the Devil
2. The good seed, the wheat are the sons of the Kingdom
3. The bad seed, the weeds, the tares, are the sons of the Devil
4. This was how it was from the beginning, all throughout Church History until the second Advent of Christ (**Gen 3:15**)
 - a. The serpent and Eve, Cain and Abel, Ishmael and Isaac, Esau and Jacob, Egypt and Israel, Canaan/Philistines and Israel, the Father of Lies and the Seed of David at the Cross
 - b. Believers live alongside the seed of the serpent
5. If you are good seed, you owe your position as good seed to the work of Jesus Christ Alone! If you believe in Jesus, you are the good seed Jesus has sown.

Two Fruits (Mathew 13:26-29, 38)

1. The wheat is the Church of Christ, the redeemed children of God, growing and maturing and producing 30, 60, 100 fold
2. The weed, the darnel, is the deceptive children of Satan doing the bidding of their master (**Revelation 12:9; cf. Ephesians 2**)
 - a. They cause, tempt to sin and they are lawbreakers
3. The wheat and the tares grow together causing the servants to ask questions – did the Landlord cast good seed or not? He did
 - a. Christ does not scatter good seed in hope that they will prove to BE good seed – the good seed is the elect of God
 - b. The enemy sowed bad seed – weeds, causing the servants to go and pull up the weeds (but this would uproot the wheat)
 - c. We patiently wait for the Lord of the Harvest, living with the weeds, promoting the good, pushing back the dark (**Jer 29:7**)

One Harvest (Matthew 13:30, 39-43)

1. The reapers, the angels, will harvest both the wheat & tares at the same time, one to everlasting life, the other to everlasting torment
 - a. This will happen at the end of the age (**Mt 13:49-50, Rev 13:19-20, Mt 24:31**)
2. The righteous will shine like the sun, like their Lord, who is the first fruits of the KOG (**1 Cor 15:37-49, Mt 17:2, Dan 12:2-3**)