

The Parable of the Weeds

MATTHEW 13:24-30; 36-43

Parables

- ▶ a story drawn from a “real life” situation that communicates one or more spiritual truths.
- ▶ Not an allegory in which each detail has meaning.
- ▶ A parable will communicate one, or possibly a few basic truths.

Matthew 13:24-30

²⁴ He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.

Matthew 13:24-30

²⁷ And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' 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 13:24-30

²⁹ But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. 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 13:36-43

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,

Matthew 13:36-43

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.

Matthew 13:36-43

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.

The Parable of the weeds

- ▶ The Sower: Jesus
- ▶ The field: the world
- ▶ The good seed: sons of the kingdom
- ▶ The weeds: sons of the evil one
- ▶ The enemy who sowed the weeds: the devil
- ▶ The Harvest: the end of the age

Understanding Judgment

Judgment involves a “separation.”

wheat and weeds; evil & righteous (v30, 40-43)

Judgment involves reward.

the evil ones: fiery furnace

the righteous ones: they will “shine like the sun”

Question 1

“Master, **did you not sow good seed** in your field? How then does it have weeds?” (v27)

The Answer: An enemy has done this. (v28)

The Issue: If the kingdom has come, why is evil still present?

Question 2

“Then do you want us to go and gather them?”

The Answer:

lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them; we must wait for the harvest.

The issue: Why does God delay His judgment?

The Now & Not Yet Kingdom

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

The Now & Not Yet Kingdom

Jesus proclaimed that the kingdom has come, and that the kingdom was coming.

Followers of Christ represent the kingdom in this world.

Letting our light shine

Matthew 5:14–16 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, **so that they may see your good works** and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Walking in Holiness

Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

1 Thess 5:23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Embracing Our Mission

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”