

The Wheat and the Weeds

Matthew 13:24-30

Introduction

- ch.13 section on Kingdom Parables
- In light of the rejection of Jesus by man, and the acceptance by a few, what is going on?
- What is the nature of the Kingdom? How is it to advance? How does Jesus' perspective line up with common Jewish expectation?

Prelude: The Sower and Soils

Question: Why Parables?

Interpretation: The Sower and Soils

Parables: The Kingdom of Heaven (x7)

#1 - The Wheat with the Weeds

[1: How the Kingdom will advance]

#2 - From Seed to a Tree

(All three “advancement”
parables are agricultural)

#3 - As Leaven in Flour

Interlude: Prophecy Fulfilled

Interpretation: The Wheat and Weeds

#4 - A Treasure in the Field

[2: What the Kingdom is worth]

#5 - The Merchant and the Pearl

[3: How the Kingdom will conclude]

#6 - The Net and the Fish

[Application: Kingdom discipleship]

#7 - A Scribe and His Treasure

Postlude: The Response to Jesus and His Parables

The Setup

He put another parable before them, saying,

The kingdom of heaven may be compared to:

a man who sowed good seed in his field...

The Conflict

but while his men were sleeping,
his enemy came and sowed weeds
among the wheat
and went away.

The Discovery

So when the plants came up and bore grain,
then the weeds appeared also.



The Report

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?’

He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’

The Solution

So the servants said to him,

‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’

But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds
you root up the wheat along with them.

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,

The Request (36-43)

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.”

The Symbols

the one who sows the good seed	the Son of Man
the field	the world
the good seed	the sons of the kingdom
the weeds	the sons of the evil one
the enemy who sowed them (the weeds)	the devil
the harvest	the end of the age
the reapers	angels

The Interpretation

Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire,
so will it be at the end of the age.

The Son of Man will send his angels,
and they will gather out of his kingdom
all causes of sin and all law-breakers,
and throw them into the fiery furnace.

In that place there will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The Glorification

Then the righteous will
shine like the sun
in the kingdom of their Father.

He who has ears, let him hear.

Application/Participation

- Summary: the kingdom will advance in a world in which there will be both the sons of the Kingdom and the sons of evil one
- This will only (and yet completely) be remedied at the end of this age
- Importance for the early disciples (and us) to know this is how Jesus is going to work in contrast to OT expansion of the Kingdom - going in, taking land, wiping out enemies
 - Change from militaristic to spiritual rule

Application/Participation

- All the world is Jesus Christ's Kingdom and He is at work
 - The devil is also at work against Him out of malice
- It is often difficult to determine during immature stages the difference between the wheat and the weeds
- The reality of this mixture will either prevent fruitfulness or bear it in us as followers of King Jesus
 - The fruit is the work of the Spirit in the reality of an imperfect world

Application/Participation

- We are to be separate from sin, but not from sinners
 - This is where we are to bear fruit, and how we are marked as distinct
- The premature uprooting of the wicked by the servants of the Lord can cause damage to the righteous
- Those who are outside of Christ benefit for the time being on behalf of the good of the sons of the Kingdom
- Nevertheless, the time of reckoning is coming