

Matthew 13: 24-30 & 36-43; Understanding the Parable of the Wheat & The Tares;
Session # 4 – “Let Both Grow Together”, presented by Pastor Paul
Rendall, on August 7th, 2022, in the Adult Sunday School Class.

Matthew 13: 24-30 & 36-52 –

Mat 13: 24 “Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;

Mat 13:25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

Mat 13:26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

Mat 13:27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’

Mat 13:28 He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’

Mat 13:29 But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.’

Mat 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

Mat 13: 36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.”

Mat 13:37 He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

Mat 13:38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.

Mat 13:39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

Mat 13:40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

Mat 13:41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,

Mat 13:42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Mat 13:43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Review –

We have been focusing on the Kingdom of Heaven, the Mediatorial Kingdom which was given by the Father to Christ, so that a people would be gathered from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation to know God, worship God, walk with God, and then gathered into the Kingdom of the Father at the end of the age which will be the end of the world. During this Church age, the Son of Man sows good seeds in the world, which are all those who He saves and then places in local churches in this world. The servants in this Parable are the Ministers, pastors, and others who are concerned with who comes into the local church to become a member.

We have also seen that the enemy of our Lord, and every true Christian, the Devil, sows tares among the wheat. The tares are those persons who come into the local church and think that they are Christians, or try to make others believe that they are a Christian. In some ways they may look like a Christian, but we have seen that the difference between the wheat and the tares is that the persons who are the wheat receive the word of God without arguing against it, and they are poor in spirit, not seeing in themselves the resources to be saved or to live the Christian life.

I said to you last time that the servant’s responsibility (the minister’s responsibility) is not to gather up the tares and see if he can remove them from the church; those persons who he suspects might be tares. He must learn to work with all the people in the church to patiently teach them how a person is saved, and what their life should manifest in righteousness after they are converted to Christ. If he tries too hard to get them out of the church, it may affect those persons who are close to them who are also in the church, who he might inadvertently cause to leave the church as well; people who are wheat. The Lord Jesus thinks that it is better to let them grow together and at the Judgment of the Last Day they shall be separated.

1. What happens during this present age?

Matthew 13:30 – “Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, ‘First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Both the Wheat and the Tares are allowed to grow together until the harvest. That is, God permits men to live their lives as they please; to live them without his judging them immediately for their sins. This does not mean that He does not strive with them by His Spirit, or that He does not bring temporal blessings to them or earthly judgments to them at times. But it means that He will save the overall judgment of their lives, their final judgment, the separation of the tares from the wheat, until Christ returns and He judges the world. During the time of their life, all men are under the wrath of God, until and unless, that wrath is removed by their believing in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, they shall surely perish in the Lake of Fire at the last Day.

John 3: 36 – “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Matthew 13: 39-42

“The enemy who sowed them (the tares) is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.” “Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.” “The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire.” “There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

1. Who are the reapers and what will happen to the tares at the time of the harvest according to this parable?

So, the reapers are the angels according to verse 39. And the harvest is the end of the age. When Christ comes back in His Glorious Second Coming, He will instruct the angels to gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those persons who practice lawlessness, and “bind them into bundles” to burn them; that is, to cast them into the Lake of Fire. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth by the tares, those wicked unconverted persons who never really did believe in Christ, but trusted in their own understanding, and they thought that they were righteous in themselves.

a. All things that Offend –

Luke 17: 1-5 – “Then Jesus said to the disciples, ‘It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!’ “It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.” “Take heed to yourselves.” “If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.” “And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven time in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.” “And the apostles said – ‘Increase our faith.’”

Offenses are things that people do in sinning against God and other people, other Christians even. Here in the context it is someone who sinned against you, offended you, a disciples of Christ, one of his “little ones” in a thoughtless or cruel way. These things may cause you to stumble if you do not deal with it. You deal with it by rebuking your brother who sins against you, and if he repents, you shall forgive him. Those who commit offenses against God and His dear children, if unrepented of, shall be brought up at the Judgment. “The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend.”

b. Those who practice lawlessness –

Matthew 7: 18-23 – “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.” “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” “Therefore by their fruits you will know them.” “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does

the will of My Father in heaven.” “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’”

Those persons who are being spoken about by our Lord are those who thought that they were true Christians, and on the Day of Judgment, they will protest that they had prophesied in Christ’s name, cast out demons in His name, and done many wonders in His name. But He will declare to them that He never knew them to be one of His disciples. Why not? They had gifts but they did not have grace. They will be cast into hell because they practiced lawlessness. They did not do and keep God’s commandments. The fruit that they bore therefore, was bad fruit, and they would, being bad trees, be cut down and thrown into the fire.