

Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds, Part 2

Read Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43

Parables compare one thing with another. Jesus knows all about the Kingdom but He can't share exactly what this Spiritual Kingdom is like. Instead He gives us word pictures that help us understand certain aspects of it.

In other parables, the seed is the Word of God.

* In this parable, what is represented by the good seed (wheat)?

* In this parable, what is represented by the bad seed (weeds)?

There is no middle or neutral ground. Either God is our master or the evil one is our master. There is no other alternative third choice.

* What is the definition of evil from God's point of view? How does God's holiness impact His definition of evil?

Not only are unrighteous acts evil, the lack of *desire* to act in righteous ways is evil. One who lives this way are friends of the evil one and an enemy of God.

* Share about a time in your life when you lived this way:

We all were there once and still would be, if it weren't for the love and grace of God.

Read Psalm 1

Contrast the blessed man and the wicked man:

We sin because we are sinners, acting out of our sin nature. If we have been saved, we now have a new righteous nature within us. When we sin now, we are reverting back to our old nature, but we no longer practice sin as a way of life.

The evil one lives in darkness and if we follow him, we are also in darkness.

*What does walking in darkness look like? How is this impacting the lives of those around us?

To sum up, there are two types of people in this world, those in the kingdom and those out of the kingdom.

Final points to remember:

1. Don't be deceived that we are in the kingdom because we do good things, are good people, and have wrapped the cozy security blanket of morality around us. There are many good church people who have been deceived or have deceived themselves by the religious system of rule-following, thinking they are in the kingdom but in reality they are only in the church.

* How can we deceive ourselves or how can we be deceived by the religious system?

* In your life, have you been deceived or deceived yourself into thinking you were a Christian but weren't? Share:

Jesus wants us to be whole hearted. He wants us to be all in, no reserve, nothing held back.

*How will this impact the way we live?

We need to do a self examination to see if we are a weed or wheat.

* On what basis can we know which we are?

* What can we do if we have wandered back into our old sinful way of doing things?

2. A second point of this parable is that the world is ripe for harvest. "Act like wheat, love the tares."

Read 2 Cor. 5:14-15

* Considering the destiny of the lost around us, what keeps us from sharing as we should?

* Considering the destiny of the lost around us, what should compel us to share God's love with them?

It's not our love for God but His love for us that drives us to share with the lost. It doesn't matter how we feel on a particular day about God in order to care about and love our neighbors. We need to constantly remind ourselves of His great love for us, the mercy He has shown us and the grace so freely given at the Cross to us. This will motivate us to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us.