

**THEME:** THE PARABLES OF JESUS

**TOPIC:** THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND TARES II

**TEXT:** MATTHEW 13:24-30; 36-43

## INTRODUCTION

**"The Parable of The Wheat and Tares"** Like **"The Parable of the Sower"**, is one of the few in which we have Jesus' own explanation, given in response to the disciples' inquiry **Matthew 13:36**. In the previous study, we focused on Jesus' explanation of the parable, today we will be focusing more on the truths gleaned from the parable.

## I. TRUTHS GLEANED FROM THE PARABLE

### A. CHRIST IS LONG-SUFFERING, SO YOU CAN GROW!

1. Why does Christ suffer so long with the wicked around us?
  2. Why does He not come in judgment against the "sons of the wicked one?"
  3. Perhaps to give "you" (a son of the kingdom) a time to grow!
    - a. In the parable, it was out of concern for the "**wheat**" that the "**tares**" were allowed to remain - **Matthew 13:29**
    - b. As Peter indicated, it is the Lord's longsuffering that prompts any seeming delay in His coming - **2 Peter 3:9**
- So while Christ is certainly desirous that "all" men come to repentance, He has a special interest in those "sons of the kingdom" who are still growing!

### B. THIS PARABLE DOES NOT PRECLUDE CHURCH DISCIPLINE...

1. Some have sought to use this parable to say that church discipline should not be carried out
2. Yet that would go contrary to the teachings of Jesus Himself, and that of His apostles.
  - a. Jesus taught there would be times for church discipline – **Matthew 18:15-17**.
  - b. Paul instructed the churches in Corinth and Thessalonica concerning the need and methodology of church discipline – **1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15**
3. The point of this parable is that Jesus Himself will not do anything visible until the end of the age when He comes with His angels
4. Those in the church, however, have a personal responsibility to withdraw from those brethren who refuse to repent of sin. How do we do this?

### C. THE KINGDOM IS BOTH PRESENT AND FUTURE! **Matthew 13:36-43**

1. In **verse 41**, the Son of Man will "gather out of His kingdom", so the kingdom is in existence prior to the end of the age when the Son of Man comes with His angels
2. In **verse 43**, it is after the harvest that the righteous "will shine forth in the kingdom of their Father"
3. As taught by Paul, Christ rules now and will turn the kingdom over to His Father when He comes again - **1 Corinthians 15:23-26**

### D. ONE MAY BE IN THE KINGDOM NOW, BUT NOT IN THE FUTURE!

1. Note that the angels will gather certain ones "out of His kingdom" - **Matthew 13:41**
2. Those ones who were "in the kingdom" are then "cast into the furnace" - **Matthew 13:42**
3. Who would these be?
  - a. Those who "offend" (cause others to stumble or lead them to sin)
    - i. The kind of people who Jesus warned His disciples about – **Matthew 18:6-7**

- ii. The kind of people who Paul warned the Christians at Corinth and Rome about – **1 Corinthians 8:11-13; 10:31-11:1; Romans 16:17-18 (14:13, 19-21)**
- b. Those who "practice lawlessness" (do things without authority)
  - i. Remember the warnings of Jesus and John - **Matthew 7:21-23; 2 John 9**
  - ii. The way to avoid lawlessness is given in **Colossians 3:17**
- 4. Because of the very real danger of not "entering our heavenly rest", we find warnings to persevere - **Hebrews 3:12-14; 4:1-2, 11**

#### **E. A PLACE OF PUNISHMENT IS THE REWARD OF THE WICKED!**

- 1. We saw where those "that offend" and who "practice lawlessness" would invariably
  - a. Be cast into the "**furnace of fire**"
  - b. Experience "**wailing and gnashing of teeth**"
- 2. And as described in the Judgment Scene, Jesus talks of a place prepared for the wicked – **Matthew 25:41, 45-46**
- 3. Thus a proper proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom must of necessity include a warning to those who do not receive the kingdom!

#### **CONCLUSION**

- 1. Indeed, this very parable is a warning to all not to allow themselves to be influenced by the wicked one!
  - a. As Peter wrote, our adversary is very much seeking to destroy us! - **1 Peter 5:8**
  - b. But if we can allow the word of God to abide in us, we can overcome the wicked one – **1 John 2:14**
- 2. We learn from this parable, then, that the kingdom of heaven...
  - a. Will spread as people become "sons of the kingdom" (by heeding the Son of Man)
  - b. Will not preclude the efforts and influence of the devil (so expect to see some "tares")

Dear friend, remember what Jesus said...

**"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." - John 3:5 – "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"**