

CAPITAL BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON NOTES

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"Secrets of the Kingdom"

"The Wheat & the Tares"

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Big Idea – God will separate the true believers from the fakes – that’s His job, not mine.

1. What was the story of the wheat and the weeds?

Matthew 13:24 Then Jesus told them another story: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who planted good seed in his field.

25 That night, when everyone was asleep, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat and then left.

26 Later, the wheat sprouted and the heads of grain grew, but the weeds also grew.

27 Then the man’s servants came to him and said, 'You planted good seed in your field. Where did the weeds come from?'

28 The man answered, 'An enemy planted weeds.' The servants asked, 'Do you want us to pull up the weeds?'

29 The man answered, 'No, because when you pull up the weeds, you might also pull up the wheat.

30 Let the weeds and the wheat grow together until the harvest time. At harvest time I will tell the workers, "First gather the weeds and tie them together to be burned. Then gather the wheat and bring it to my barn." ' ' "

2. What was Jesus’ explanation?

The Sower - "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man"

Matthew 4:23 "Jesus went everywhere in Galilee preaching the Good News about the kingdom of heaven,

identified in Daniel's vision as the One who received a kingdom

Daniel 7:13 "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.

14 He was given authority, glory, and the strength of a king. People of every tribe, nation, and language will serve him. His rule will last forever, and his kingdom will never be destroyed.

after His ascension He received such authority

Revelation 3:21 "...I also overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne."

The Field - "The field is the world" where the Son of Man came to sow the seed

The Good Seed (Wheat) - "The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom"

Those who gladly own Jesus as their Lord and King

When compared to "The Parable of The Sower", we come up with slightly mixed metaphors...

The disciples are those who constitute the "good soil", in which the seed has been sown (Parable of the Sower), but in The Parable of The Wheat and Tares, the disciples are the "good seed" themselves

So when one receives the "seed" of the kingdom (the Word of God), they become "good seed" (a son of the kingdom)

The Tares - "The tares are the sons of the wicked one"

Defined as those that.. "Offend & Practice lawlessness" - cf. Mt 13:41

They are within the realm of the Lord's reign (for the Lord will later gather them out of His kingdom), but they clearly are not submitting to the Lord's authority!

Their actions reveal that they are really "sons of the wicked one"!

The Enemy - "The enemy who sowed them is the devil"

Who tried to tempt Christ and failed - cf. Mt 4:1-11

Who now tries to destroy the efforts of Christ to save souls and enlarge the influence of His kingly rule

The Harvest - "The harvest is the end of the age"

The "age" in which...The gospel of the kingdom is being preached; People who receive the gospel can become the "sons of the kingdom" -- i.e., the present gospel dispensation - cf. Co 1:13;

The Reapers - "The reapers are the angels"

Angels will accompany Christ when He comes again –

2 Thessalonians 1:7 And God will provide rest for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. He will come with his mighty angels,

8 in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus.

9 They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power.

3. What is the application for us today?

Truths Gleaned from the Parable

The tares—false Christians (vv. 24-30, 36-43).

Satan can't uproot the plants (true Christians), so he plants counterfeit Christians in their midst.

Christ is sowing true believers in various places that they might bear fruit (John 12:23-26). But, wherever Christ sows a true Christian, Satan comes and sows a counterfeit.

We must beware of Satan's counterfeits.

He has counterfeit Christians (2 Cor. 11:26)

who believe a counterfeit Gospel (Gal. 1:6-9).

He encourages a counterfeit righteousness (Rom. 10:1-3),

and even has a counterfeit church (Rev. 2:9).

he will produce a counterfeit Christ (2 Thes. 2:1-12).

We must also stay awake so that Satan's ministers do not get into the true fellowship and do damage (2 Peter 2; 1 John 4:1-6).

Christ is long-suffering, so you can grow!

Why does Christ suffer so long with the wicked around us?

Why doesn't He come in judgment against the "sons of the wicked one?"

Perhaps to give "you" (a son of the kingdom) a time to grow! In the parable, it was out of concern for the "wheat" that the "tares" were allowed to remain - Mt 13:29

As Peter said it is the Lord's longsuffering that prompts any seeming delay in His coming - cf. 2 Pe 3:9

A place of punishment is the reward of the wicked!

This punishment of the wicked is a recurring theme in several parables:

The Parable of The Dragnet - cf. Mt 13:49-50

The Parable of The Unforgiving Servant - cf. Mt 18:34-35

And as described in the Judgment Scene, Jesus talks of a place prepared for the wicked

Matthew 25:41 "Then the King will say to those on his left, 'Go away from me. You will be punished. Go into the fire that burns forever that was prepared for the devil and his angels.

46 "And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."

So a proper preaching of the gospel of the kingdom must of necessity include a warning to those who do not receive the kingdom!

this parable is a warning to not to allow ourselves to be influenced by the wicked one!

As Peter wrote, our adversary is very much seeking to destroy us!

1 Peter 5:8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

But if we can allow the word of God to abide in us, we can overcome the wicked one

1 John 2:14 I have written to you...because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

So the kingdom of heaven...

was inaugurated with the Son of Man's first coming (especially with His ascension to the right hand of God and the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost - Acts 2), the kingdom of heaven will not be fully culminated until...

The Son of Man returns with His angels, and gathers all things out of His kingdom that offend and practice lawlessness, and delivers the kingdom to God (cf. 1 Co 15:24)

At that time...we will have an abundant entrance *"into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* - cf. 2 Peter 1:11

"Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father" - Matthew 13:43

Dear friend, is not that your desire? Then remember what Jesus said..."he who has ears to hear better listen good."