

# The Parables of the Weeds & the Wheat

## *Matthew 13:24-30;36-43*

### INTRODUCTION:

This morning I want us to look at the Parable of the Weeds and Wheat. This parable could also be named the Parable of the Harvest. Tonight, we will be covering the Future Hope that we have in Christ, and so we, like last week on forgiveness, are making the topic of Our Future Hope the theme for today. This future hope gives us purpose for our today, specifically in our now, and in conjunction with tonight's study I thought we might consider this wonderful parable of the Lord to get insight of understanding what is going on in God's good world.

As you have heard me say many times in the past that Heaven & Earth were made for each other, and because of sin they have been separated, but ultimately because of the work of Christ they can be put back together in the proper time. This is the overarching metanarrative of Scripture. This parable we are about to read gives us insight to what has happened, and what God will do about it.

### ***Proverbs 23:18***

Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off.

As we will discuss further tonight, Hope is what drives the Christian to maturity. It is this Hope that we carry within us when all hell is breaking loose around us. We don't need to retaliate as the world does because we live in Hope that God has it all taken care of, and vengeance is His.<sup>1</sup>

There are many questions around the future and questions regarding Scripture that we have no capacity in which to understand now, but what we can know is that God, in His time and in His way, will sort it all out and good will be victorious.

This morning's parable illustrates this very reality. What we will read in this parable really is a truncated version of the metanarrative of Scripture that I just spoke of. There are basically three stories converging and they are:

- The Story of God and His creation
- The Story of an Enemy seeking destruction
- The Story of Redemption and Justice.

These are the elements of life in which most of our unanswered questions come from such as:

1. Why hasn't God done something to deal with this evil around us?
2. Will God sort this all out?
3. What will the end look like?

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<sup>1</sup>Romans 12:9

### ***Matthew 13:24-30***

He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, <sup>25</sup> but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. <sup>26</sup> So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. <sup>27</sup> 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?’ <sup>28</sup> He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup> But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup> 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, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’<sup>2</sup>

### ***Matthew 13:36-43***

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.” <sup>37</sup> He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup> Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, <sup>42</sup> and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”<sup>3</sup>

## **I. The Illustration**

### **NoGenesis 1:31-2:3**

<sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

### **The Seventh Day, God Rests**

**2** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup> And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>[\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mt 13:24–30). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>3</sup>[\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mt 13:36–43). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>4</sup>[\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Ge 1:31–2:3). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

## **Simon Kistemaker**

The word *weeds* is not an adequate translation of the original Greek word *zizania*, which refers to “a troublesome weed in the grain fields, resembling wheat.” It cannot be determined whether the word refers to the poisonous or to the nonpoisonous variety of this weed. Whatever the case, the plant has the appearance of wheat and grows exclusively in cultivated fields.<sup>5</sup>

### **ESV Study Bible states:**

Zizania is probably “darnel”, which is a weedy Eurasian rye grass with poisonous black seeds which resembles wheat in its early growth, but is easily distinguished from it at maturity.

## **II. The Explanation**

Many times Jesus didn’t explain the parable but gave it to His listeners to learn from and wrestle with, but in this instance the disciples inquired of further detail.

The characters in the play:

1. Jesus is the Farmer
2. The field is the World
3. The Good Seed, the Wheat, are the Sons of the Kingdom
4. The Weeds are the Sons of the Evil One
5. The Enemy is the Devil
6. The Harvest is the end of the age
7. The Reapers or Harvesters are Angels

### **John 8:36-47**

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. <sup>37</sup> I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. <sup>38</sup> I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

### **You Are of Your Father the Devil**

<sup>39</sup> They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, <sup>40</sup> but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. <sup>41</sup> You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.” <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. <sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. <sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. <sup>45</sup> But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. <sup>46</sup> Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? <sup>47</sup> Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Kistemaker, Simon. *The Parables.*, p. 44.

<sup>6</sup>[\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Jn 8:36–47). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

### ***Matthew 24:37-42***

For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. <sup>42</sup> Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

### **N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church***

“Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about.”

### **John Piper**

Having held the glory of God in contempt through ingratitude and distrust and disobedience, (those without Christ) are sentenced to be excluded from the enjoyment of that glory forever and ever in the eternal misery of hell.

### **C.S. Lewis**

The lost enjoy forever the horrible freedom they have demanded.

## **III. The Application**

**Truth 1:** Good in the end triumphs.

**Truth 2:** God will not leave His good world to be destroyed by evil.

**Truth 3:** God's good world will be rescued from those that would do it evil and do evil in it.

**Truth 4:** The enemy can't outsmart God

**Truth 5:** Don't get in the way of God's plan.

**Truth 6:** God knows best

**Truth 7:** God is not only in the business of rescuing His crop but also His entire field.

### ***Romans 8:19-25***

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Ro 8:19–25). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

### ***Revelation 21:22-26***

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, <sup>25</sup> and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.<sup>8</sup>

## **CONCLUSION**

### ***Psalms 42:5-6***

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation <sup>6</sup>and my God.<sup>9</sup>

### ***Daniel 12:1-3***

But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. <sup>2</sup> And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup> And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

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<sup>8</sup>[\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Re 21:22–26). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>9</sup>[\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Ps 42:5–6). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.