

MATTHEW 13:24-30

INTRODUCTION

Jesus Location: Sea of Galilee (North)

- Healing (Sick and Demon Possessed), Teaching in Parables
- Currently near his home town: Mothers and Brothers are present, and was in his home town

Teaching prior: Parable of the Sower

- Sown of the Path
- Sown on Rocky Ground
- Sown among thorns
- Sown in Good Soil

Jesus continues to teach using another parable: Parable of the Weeds

READ TEXT

24 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.

25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.

26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

27 "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

28 "'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

29 "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

THEN

Jesus begins with 'The Kingdom of heaven is like' – what is he referring too?

- Kingdom refers to 'under God's reign on earth'
- Time on earth after Jesus' death, but before he returns (where the kingdom becomes heavenly)
- Jews were waiting for a visible Kingdom, Jesus is trying to influence their opinion to see truth (deeper)

How is this in contrast with the Parable of the Sower?

- Sower refers to our response when hearing about the Kingdom
- Weeds is now centred on those who have responded to the message as Good Soil
- Ref: 24 the kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field

What does the text mean by 'while everyone was sleeping'?

- transitional period: many wanted the end to come swiftly in order to enact punishment
- Jesus refers to this intermittent period as a time of sleep (his own death – before he again rises)

Who is the enemy in the passage?

- Satan, parable of the sower makes this clear (snatches the word from people's hearts)

What does it mean to sow weeds? How do you sow weeds?

- Easier to simply wipe out the wheat, but if someone is attending the crop this is impossible
- Covert solution to destroying a crop

How can you tell the difference between the Wheat and the Weeds?

- Very difficult, to this day weeds in cropping fields disguise themselves as wheat
- Only way to tell is the seed head and if hairs are protruding

Who is the owner in this passage? Who is the servant?

- Owner: God
- Servant: Jesus

Why would the owner respond 'No' – to pulling both the weeds and the wheat?

- Cannot tell one from the other, do not want to get it wrong
- Giving the wheat everyone chance to grow among the weeds

What does it mean to uproot the wheat? What will happen to the wheat?

- If uprooted, the wheat will lose connection to the soil and die
- dangerous, will destroy the crop as well as the weeds

What will the owner do at harvest?

- Collect the weeds, bundle them and burn them
- Then gather the wheat into the barn

NOW**Who are we in this parable?**

- Good Soil, hopefully our aim is to be the Good soil

Are we still in a period of Sleep?

- Yes, because Jesus has not yet returned (real issue for the early Church)

Are we still apart of God's Kingdom?

- Yes, before Jesus returns and brings the kingdom into its heavenly state

What according to this parable is Satan's strategy to cause trouble?

- Sow weeds among the crop of the good soil

What does that look like in today's church?

- Open discussion
- Disruption from the mission, getting our attention away from the mission and looking instead internally

What does that look like in our own hearts? How are we susceptible to becoming weeds?

- Believing the lies Satan feeds us about our Sin
- motivated by selfishness and idolatry
 - + defensive, isolated – mistrusting, people centric, misuse scripture, competitive, arrogant

How does Jesus respond to the weeds among the crop?

- Leaves them...

Why?

- Judgement is coming, and Jesus has the authority to deal with them at that point
- Giving the weeds every chance to remain a part of the crop, and to continue to produce what is asked
- Become too concerned with weeds, we forget the goal is make a great crop

What happens in the end with those who remain weeds among the crop?

- One by one bundled and burned (what does that mean?)

APPLICATION**How are our hearts this evening (as a bible talk/as a body)?**

- Open Discussion

What are the ways Satan is feeding us lies? What are the lies we believe in our heart about our Sin?

- Open Discussion
- Influenced: by the world or our feelings/desires
- 'you deserve/earnt it', 'it is not that bad', 'Grace covers over you', 'it only affects you'

What are the ways we can avoid becoming the weeds in the parable?

- Open Discussion
- Let people into our lives, talk about the issues and seek biblical wisdom/advice for the problems
- Bible can pinpoint the difference between Weed and Wheat easily
- Assume the best of one-another, Wheat looks outward as a faithful response to Jesus

What are the ways we can help those around us avoid becoming weeds?

- Apply the bibles standards to Sin
- Gentle but firm, be loving and patient – listen and understand the issues carefully, but also apply scripture
- Soft on others is not the same as having a soft heart towards Jesus
- Get advice about how to disciple and help one another
- Love each other, firmness and gentleness work when love for one another through Jesus is the core
 - + Otherwise it is just a clanging symbol (1 Corinthians 13)