

The Parable of the Weeds
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

What is a parable?

- A parable is an earthly story with a Heavenly meaning.

What is the purpose of the parables?

- Jesus spoke plainly with people until He was accused of casting out demons by using the power of Satan.
- From that point on He spoke in confusing language as to convey points to those who had spiritual ears to hear.
- The parables are a form of judgment that Jesus had rightfully brought down on the people.
- He would hide the truth in plain sight and only those whose hearts had been changed by the Holy Spirit would be enabled to understand.

Elements of the Parable

- 1) A Man/Sower
- 2) Good Seed
- 3) A Field
- 4) His Workers
- 5) His Enemy
- 6) Wheat
- 7) Weeds

v. 24-25

A Man Sows His Seed

- Here we see a picture of a man who goes out to scatter his seed in a field.
- The Bible says that the man sowed *good seed* in his field.
- The point of the sower's work is that he may reap a bountiful harvest to feed himself and his family while selling off crops to make money.
- This would have been his occupation as evidenced by the fact that he has workers.
- This was not a one man hobby farm but rather someone who did this commercially.

The Enemy Comes

- After the sowing is completed, the man and his workers retire to their homes and sleep off the day's labor.
- While they are sleeping, an enemy comes and attempts to sabotage the operation.
- The sower would have likely known who it was that attempted to sabotage him as it would have likely been a rival farmer who hoped to make more money for himself.
- His attempt is made under the cover of darkness as not to be detected so by the time it was noticed it would be too late.
- The enemy came in and sowed weeds among the good seed.

v. 26

Weeds

- If you've ever grown a garden or attempted to sow a yard you've noticed that one of the greatest enemies of the endeavor is the weeds that inevitably pop up.
- Weeds will spread out, consume resources, and choke out good plants.
- It's sometimes difficult to differentiate the weeds from the good stuff.

- I used to sow directly into the ground but in recent years I began to utilize raised beds.
- This allows me to keep more weeds out but even still there are sprouts that pop up in which I am not sure what they are.
- In my small garden it was no big deal to keep weeds at bay but in a large operation something like this could be devastating.

v. 27-28

The Master is Informed

- Some time has passed and the result of the seed is showing more plainly.
- The wheat has begun to show itself but also the weeds are starting to show themselves.
- The enemies plot has now been revealed but the damage can also be mitigated.
- The workers offer to remove the weeds from the wheat.
- This is a logical response.
- Why not just go into the field and remove the harmful weeds and allow the good wheat to thrive?

v. 29-30

Wait and See

- The sower instructs them to allow everything to grow in its place without disturbance.
- This would allow for the wheat to get stronger and the weeds to become more distinctive.
- Instead of going and ripping up weeds while running the risk of damaging the young, tender wheat shoots, they would wait until the full fruit had been revealed.
- At harvest time the reapers would be instructed to separate the wheat from the weeds.
- The weeds would be bundled and burned while the wheat would be gathered into the barn of the sower for processing, use, and sale.

The Parable is Explained

- Per usual, the disciples were having difficulty understanding this teaching so Jesus pulled them aside and told them plainly.

1) A Man/Sower

- Jesus tells them that the sower is the Son of God.
- He is the sower.

2) Good Seed/Wheat

- The good seeds are those who are truly born again into the Kingdom of God.

3) A Field

- The field is the world.

4) His Workers

- His workers are the angels.

5) His Enemy

- The enemy is Satan

6) Weeds

- The weeds are the unsaved.
- People of the enemy.

The End of the Age

- At the end of all things there will be a great judgment day.
- At that time the wheat will be separated from the weeds.
- This is also seen in the sheep vs goats analogy.
- The wheat will be gathered into the Father's house while the weeds will be cast into the lake of fire.

Matthew 7:21-23

- To me, this is the scariest passage in all of Scripture.
- Jesus tells of people on judgment day who believe that they are one of His people and He will respond to them that He never knew them and to depart from Him.

Lord, Lord

- This repetition is one of closeness.
- These people will genuinely believe that they are saved and may even have done some good works but are not born again.

I Never Knew You

- Of course, because Jesus is omniscient, He knows everyone.
- That's not what is being implied here.
- The difference between knowing and *knowing* is stark.
- In Genesis it says that Adam *knew* his wife Eve and she conceived.
- We all know that this is referring to the sexual relationship between the two.
- He knew Eve in a way that he didn't know anyone or anything else.
- It's an intimate knowing not just a surface knowing.

Practical Application for Today

- This parable teaches us that even in the church there are people who are unconverted.
- They sit on the pews, they may even tithe, have been baptized, etc but are not born again.
- They have never truly repented of their sin and trusted Christ and are instead trusting in their works.
- This is indicative of the response to those on judgment day who cry out to Jesus in their defense that they worked all of these wonderful things.
- They are leaning on their works instead of the finished work of Jesus.
- What are we to do with these people?
- Are we to go on a witch hunt to have them removed from our midst?
- This parable tells us that we are to let them grow to maturity and the Lord will sort them out.

What About Matthew 18?

- Jesus gave us clear instructions on the process for church discipline.
- This would include excommunication if repentance is not pursued.
- The difference in these scenarios is that Matthew 18 is talking about members of the body who have sinned against the Lord and refuse to repent.
- There is no real way that we can identify the members of the visible vs invisible church.
- There will be fruit that we are to examine and then certain steps should be taken but for immature and new believers the proper response is to disciple them and pray that they are truly converted by the Holy Spirit.
- If we go on a witch hunt to root out the weeds then we run the risk of damaging the wheat in the process.

