

Series: The Kingdom of Jesus

Message: Descriptions of the Kingdom – The Parables –part 2

The tares among the wheat & the dragnet of fish

Scriptures: Matt. 13:24-30 / Matt. 13: 34-43 / Matt. 13: 47-51

Introduction: Last week we looked at the foundational parable of the sower. Today we seek to glean truths concerning the Kingdom of Jesus from two more of His parables. After Jesus shared the parable of the sower, according to Matthew, He shared the parables of the tares, the mustard seed, and the leaven with the people. Following this Jesus shared with His disciples the meaning of the parable of the tares among the wheat. Jesus then shared with the **disciples only** the explanation of the tares, and the parables of the hidden treasure, a costly pearl, and the dragnet. If God allows we will be looking at all of these parables in detail in future messages. It is noteworthy however to see which ones Jesus chose to explain and which ones He chose to tell only to His disciples. Today we seek to **have ears to hear** from Jesus concerning the parable of the tares and the dragnet. Jesus closed out this telling of parables with the question; “Have you understood **all** these things?”

These two parables make it clear that Jesus wanted his followers to understand fully that a day of separation and judgement was coming. The point of the parables is to reveal to them and to us truths concerning the Kingdom of Jesus. These two parables speak to our present experience of Jesus Kingdom and the transition that will occur as we move into the second phase of Jesus kingdom. The kingdom of Jesus is here now. The church serves as embassy of the kingdom of Jesus. Jesus reigns in the church. One day this rule of Jesus will extend to the whole earth.

Before this transition is finalized the time of Judgement which Jesus is speaking of here in these parables will occur. Jesus reveals to us a strategy of the devil which is used to war against His Kingdom now. The devil works secretly to place people who do not believe in the midst of the people who are truly born again. Jesus says in both stories that one day a separation will happen and all of these false disciples will be removed by the angels and cast into the eternal fire away from the presence of Jesus and away from those who have truly believed.

Truths and applications from the Parables

The wheat represents the result of the good seed. Jesus sows the good seed which is the Gospel of His Kingdom. Those who trust in Jesus and His Gospel are genuinely born again and grow up as sons/daughters of the Kingdom. The tares are sown among the wheat. A tare looks just like the wheat yet has no grain in the husk. The tares are described by Jesus as sons of the devil. Jesus describes them in verse 41 in two categories. He calls them stumbling blocks and those who commit lawlessness. The stumbling blocks would be those who know they are with the enemy and are purposely seeking to destroy the influence of the church through false teaching, division, and many other ways. Those who commit lawlessness means people who have sinned and have not been forgiven. The forgiveness is offered but they have not trusted in Jesus alone to be born again. They are deceived into thinking that if they are good and hang out and act like the true followers then all is well.

The wheat and the tares grow together. Because of this parable we can know that not everyone who claims to be a follower of Jesus is truly born again. This is an uncomfortable thought and truth.

From this parable we also know that we have NOT been assigned the responsibility of serving as the ones who separate the true from the false. We are not to attempt to remove the tares because we cannot truly discern which people are tares and which are wheat. The history of the church is full of disobedience to this command of restraint and many true believers have been persecuted.

Our role is to consistently share the Gospel truth to everyone. Those who truly belong to Jesus will never grow tired of hearing the truth of the Gospel.

Illustration Song: I love to tell the story to those who know it best; Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest; and when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. I love to tell the story, twill be my theme in glory. To tell the old, old story, of Jesus and his love.

Those who have never truly been born again need to hear the truth that salvation is by God's grace alone. It cannot be earned by doing good deeds or works. It is through faith alone. It is through Jesus Christ alone.

These parables teach us realities we must face and embrace.

Some people, whom we believe to be genuinely born again and going to heaven with us, are not going to make it to heaven.

Some people, whom we believe have no chance of making into heaven, are truly saved.

We are unable to tell the difference and are not the judge. We can only know for sure about our own experience of salvation.

We can hope and find comfort in the confidence those around us who communicate to us their own experience of salvation. We are not to doubt one another.

Our role is **not** to seek to cause true believers to doubt their salvation and live in insecurity or fear of judgement.

Our role is **not** to cause those who are deceived to feel secure about the hope of heaven.

Our role is to clearly communicate the Gospel of the Kingdom.

- Jesus of Nazareth is both fully God and fully man. He came to earth to help us understand God and to provide the only way to God. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to God except through a relationship with Jesus
- Jesus lived a sinless life as a man therefore Jesus was qualified to represent us as a sinless sacrifice on the cross.
- Jesus took on all of our sin on the cross and Jesus died to pay our penalty for sin.
- Jesus conquered sin and death through His resurrection from the dead after 3 days.
- Jesus revealed himself alive to His followers over a period of 40 days and then ascended back to heaven where He now intercedes for us.
- Jesus offers forgiveness of sin and new birth to all who would trust in Him alone to be made right with God.

- Jesus will return again to rule and reign for all of eternity with those who belong to God by faith in Jesus. Those who do not trust in the Gospel will be separated from God's presence into a place designed for the devil and the fallen angels.
- Romans 10:8-13 – read from Bible
- 1 John 5:10-13 – read from Bible
- A day of judgement and separation is coming. The tares and bad fish according to Jesus will be cast into the furnace of fire where there will be weeping (mourning over what is lost-seeing God and being removed from His presence) and gnashing of teeth (anger and strife)
- The purpose of this separation is that the glory of Jesus Christ will be able to shine through all who have been saved by God through faith in Jesus Christ. The term righteous is given to all who belong to God by faith. Righteousness is a gift from God we receive by trusting in Jesus
- Sown together – grown together – known together
- Swim together – caught together – separated together
- Jesus asked: Have you understood all these things? Have you understood?
- Do you know without doubt that you have received from Jesus a new birth spiritually? Do you know that you have trusted in Jesus and that because of this faith alone Jesus gave you His righteousness? Do you know that this faith in Jesus is the only way to stand before God and be accepted and are you confident to stand before God today in faith?
- Do we understand that our role is not to be the judge but to be proclaimers of the Gospel of Jesus Kingdom?
- Does the Gospel story bring you joy **or** conviction?
- Is there anyone you are assuming will be in heaven but have never told them the Gospel story or your testimony?
- No one knows when will be the final day for planet earth as we currently know it. No one knows when they will take their final breath in this part of life.
- Hebrews 9:27 does tell us that the time for this final breath is appointed. It is on God calendar. Once we experience physical death the next experience is the judgement. We should be sure **now** that we are ready to stand before God because we have no promise of beyond this current moment.
- If Jesus comes in the next few moments where will His angels take you? Once that moment is really here the opportunity for trusting in Jesus will be gone. Wherever the angels take you will be where you spend eternity. Be sure **right now** that you belong to Jesus by trusting in Him.
- **Illustration Song:** This is all my hope and peace, Nothing but the blood of Jesus. This is all my righteousness, Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Oh precious is the flow that makes me white as snow. No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Prayer

- Salvation
- Assurance of Salvation
- Rededication
- Commit to share the Gospel
- Join the church