

WHEAT & TARES

MATTHEW 13

Text: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Introduction:

In this parable a farmer plants a field of wheat expecting to reap a harvest.

As we consider this passage today may each of us do what Paul instructed the Corinthians to do and Peter instructed his readers to do.

2 Corinthians 13:5

⁵ Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

2 Peter 1:10

¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

If you a saved or a Christian, this message won't hurt you, but if you're lost, it could be the turning point in your life.

Let God speak to our hearts today.

Notice

1. BOTH WERE PLANTED TOGETHER (VS. 24-25)

Both the wheat and the tares shared the common experience of having been planted. The difference in the experience is revealed in 2 very important ways.

A. The Character of the Seed

Obviously, the wheat seed produced wheat while the tare seed produced tares.

On a spiritual level the seed is the thing that we have placed our faith in.

1. For the believer, the seed is the Word of God.
2. For the lost or unbeliever, they trust in numerous things – emotional, physical, or any other experience.

It all comes down to where you have placed your faith.

What are you trusting in for your salvation?

A. The Character of the Sower

The good seed was sowed by the owner of the field; the tares were sown by his enemy.

1. Why did the enemy do this?

Obviously it was in an effort to ruin the crop and ultimately, it was an attack upon the farmer.

Satan is in the business of sowing tares among the Lord's wheat. Why?

He knows that if he can place the enough of the artificial among the genuine, then he can devastate the entire crop.

Satan is in the business of undoing all that the Lord is doing! If he can fill the church with lost church members, then he can fill hell with a multitude of deceived people.

Satan knows that enough lost people in the church will give the church a bad name. Why? Because the lost can only imitate the saved for so long, then their true nature, like that of the tares will come out!

2. When did the enemy do this?

While men slept his enemy came in and sowed tares in and among the good seed.

That is when the devil does most of his work: in and around darkness.

The devil is very cunning.

He never sows bad seed among the bad, but always sows the bad among the good.

2. BOTH PROGRESSED TOGETHER (VS. 26-30)

A. The Activity of the Wheat

This is interesting, both the wheat and the tares grew. As the wheat grew, so the tares grew alongside them. They did everything the wheat did and they looked good doing it!

The true believer will grow in the things of the Lord.

A lost person on the other hand can sit in church and hear the same message, but never get anything from it.

Why?

1 Corinthians 2:14

¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

The tares can possess all the activities of the wheat but just because they have all the activity doesn't mean that they are real.

B. The Appearance of the Wheat

Not only do the tares grow alongside the wheat, but they also look just like the wheat.

Until they have matured completely, they are impossible to tell one from the other.

We should never be guilty of telling someone that they are saved.

C. The Abundance of the Wheat

So, the tares act like wheat and they look like wheat, but this is where the similarities end.

One thing the tare cannot produce is fruit. In other words the Tares will not produce the fruit spoke of in Galatians 5:22-23.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

There true nature will be seen.

Galatians 5:19-21

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such

like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Note:

It is interesting to note the response of the farmer when he was asked about the removal of the tares. His counsel was to allow them both to grow together until the harvest. Why? Because the roots of the tares would intertwine with those of the wheat and if the tares were pulled out, then some of the wheat would be damaged also. The picture here is this: You and I cannot really tell the difference between the genuine and the artificial! If we set ourselves up as judges and start trying to weed out those we think may be tares, we will certainly pull up some of the wheat as well. Judging between the real and the false is God's job and it must remain that way! All we see is the outward appearance, but God is able to look upon the heart.

3. BOTH WERE PROCESSED TOGETHER (VS. 30)

Eventually the day of harvest arrived. The reapers were sent into the field to gather the tares first, and then the wheat.

How could they tell the difference now?

It is easy at this stage, because as the wheat matures, the head becomes filled with kernels and the weight of the kernels causes the stalk of the wheat plant to bend toward the ground. The seeds in the head of the tare are light. This allows the tare to stand tall.

Illustration:

The picture here is plain and clear. As a genuine believer grows in the Lord he tends to become more humble before the presence of God. The tare, on the other hand, will stand in his pride and go to hell clinging tightly to his false beliefs and foolishness.

When the harvest time came they were both gathered, but they had a vastly different end.

A. The Tares Were Burned

B. The Wheat Was Placed in the Barn

Note:

When this life has run its course, there are only 2 possible destinations for the human soul.

Every person who lives and dies as a tare will find themselves cast into the fires of Hell, to be eternally separated from the presence of God

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Psalms 9:17

¹⁷ The wicked shall be turned into hell, *and* all the nations that forget God.

The believer on the other hand can look forward to going the Heaven to be gathered into the Lord's House in Heaven.

John 14:1-3

¹ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

Close:

As I close let me there are some things that we should beware of:

- Beware of Good Works

It is easy to substitute good works for salvation. Often, the tares are not the worst ones we can think of, they are the best. They are busy and active in the church, but they are lost nonetheless. Don't let a seat in the

choir, a job in the church, or something good you have done send you to Hell!

- Beware of Good Beliefs

There is a real danger in coming to a church like this one. The danger is that we tell you the truth and that so much truth is preached and taught here that it is easy to learn the doctrines and to believe the right things, while never actually believing in the right Person!

You see, you can believe the Bible and every word in it, and still go to Hell.

The Devil believes the Bible.

James 2:19

¹⁹Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

- Beware of Good People

There are people all around you that wouldn't hurt you for all the money in the world, but who try to assure others of their salvation that doesn't exist. Don't ever let the words and assurances of another serve as the foundation for your salvation!

- Beware of Good Feelings

Emotional feeling cannot save you.

What are you today, Wheat or Tare?