

Parable of the Weeds in the Field

Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

Into the Lesson:

As has been pointed out throughout this series, Parables are stories that people could relate to.

Suppose the "fullness of time" (Galatians 4:4-5) had not occurred until 21st Century America, what do you think would have been Jesus' point of reference in modern parables? (I'm guessing cell phone use would have been one.)

Spend some time reviewing the parables that we have already looked at and be reminded to whom Jesus was referring:

Parable of the Soils-Mark 4:1-20

Wise and Foolish Builders-Matthew 7:24-27

Workers in the Vinyard-Matthew 20:1-16

The Unmerciful Servant-Matthew 18:23-35

Parable of the Talents-Matthew 25:14-30

Two Lost Sons-Luke 15:11-32

Into the Word:

After reading Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43 and from Sam's sermon, list the main elements of this parable and who is represented by each.

From the sermon and commentaries, the weeds or darnel (a type of poisonous grass), what becomes the distinguishing characteristic as the two seeds mature?

What are the implications that, contrary to the seeds that were sown among the thorns (Mk. 4:7&18-19), the seeds sown by the enemy don't seem to have any adverse effect on the "good seed"?

How does the life of Saul in Act 9:1 seem to indicate and abundance of "weeds" in his life? How do vv.15-16, and the bulk of the New Testament provide, "the rest of the story"?

Respond to the quote from Sam's sermon, "...the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being".

To be reminded of how "...evil in the world utterly wounds the heart of God" reread Genesis 3:21-24 & 6:5-8.

How does the "but God" from Ephesians 2:1-10 provide the hope we need to continue in this struggle?

Into Life:

What are some of the indications that we live surrounded by "weeds"?

One recent example: according to one Walmart (The real Magic Kingdom) employee, losses in the "self-checkout line exceed \$3B.)

How do we see indications of "weeds" in churches that are "mostly right" but bypass essentials like baptism and the Lords Supper?

How has the church been "somewhat prickly" to those we might consider the "weeds" of our culture?

Although the parable doesn't end well for the "weeds", what part does Grace play in our response to those we encounter?

Respond to Sam's statement, "God is patient now, because at Judgement, our identity will be final".

How do these words provide a sense of urgency for the church and our part in it?

As Sam has previously pointed out, "we are at war" how would our lives look different if we acknowledged that we are in "enemy occupied territory"?

"The way of the Kingdom is subversive.
It is not to destroy, but to renew."