

WHEAT OR WEEDS?

MATTHEW 13:24-30

INTRODUCTION: Our Lord Jesus used stories with riddles that were called parables, to teach heavenly truths with earthly images. Our Lord taught in our Scripture reading today about a man who sowed wheat seed in his field and an enemy came along later and planted useless weed seeds among his wheat seeds. By doing this Jesus is teaching us about His Church and those who form His Church. Matthew 13:24-30. Would you like an explanation of this parable? Matthew 13:36-43. As workers in God's Church our leaders must learn a balance between being hoarders and throwers.

I. BELIEVERS CAN EXPECT GODLY GROWTH IN THE FIELD OF HUMANITY!

Our Lord told His disciples that the fields of this world are ready for harvest: John 4:36-37. We must be careful at planting time and growing time that we are not too quick to judge who is in and who is out of God's kingdom. We need to guard against "The Barney Fife Syndrome." Barney wanted to show his authority and use his one bullet to demonstrate his authority. Our Lord Jesus sows the good seed and we must wait for Judgment Day to see which is His and which is not.

II. WE CAN ANTICIPATE DIABOLICAL DEEDS IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST!

Our story moves forward with an enemy coming to our Lord's field and sowing weed seed. That enemy is the devil and the seed is called "zizania" or "darnel" as it is called in Israel today. This seed looks like wheat in its early stages of growth. However at maturity this seed produces a black fruit that is inedible. Jesus said at the end of the age the angels will determine which seed was wheat and which was "darnel." We must not become disillusioned by the presence of evil growing right alongside the good seed: Romans 5:20-21; Romans 9:6-7. This mixing of the seed in the Church is a picture of the Kingdom of God in this world. We need to constantly ask our Lord to help us to know if we are wheat or weeds in the local churches we belong to. Psalm 139:23-24; 2 Corinthians 13:5. You see the problem is that even the "darnel" do not even know they are weeds: Matthew 7:21-23.

III. WE MUST RESIST MALICIOUS MEDDLING WITH DIVINE PREOGATIVES!

Our Lord warns His children not to judge too quickly and start pulling out what we think is weeds. We are not equipped by our Lord to know who is in and who is out. In Christ's Church even the most solemn discipline it is always for the purpose of reclaiming, teaching, and saving, not for giving up on one another: 1 Timothy 1:18-20; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5.

IV. BELIEVERS MUST TRUST THE PURITY OF CHRIST'S CHURCH TO HIS PROVIDENCE!

Jesus tells us to let God be God. The purity of His Church is in His Sovereign hands, not ours. We are called upon to discipline one another but we are to do it prayerfully for the good of the entire church. If we error please let it be on the side of loving too much. We don't know and are unable to judge who is saved and who is not; that is God's and only God's: Deuteronomy 29:29. 2 Peter 3:14-18. Communion Service: 1 Corinthians 11:23-32.