

The End of the Age; Matthew 13:24-30

I. Compare

- A. Jesus fully explains this parable starting in verse 36 so we will be jumping back and forth
- B. Matthew 13:24–25; 24 He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, 25 but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.
- C. Matthew 13:36–39; 36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” 37 He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.
- D. The kingdom of heaven is the age of the church
- E. So, the end of the age (of the church) is the end
- F. This plays out like an epic battle scene in a Marvel movie
 - 1. I’m reminded of the battle scene in Batman vs. Superman
 - 2. A grand showdown in Metropolis and Gotham
 - 3. Destruction and mayhem
 - 4. A lot of collateral damage, innocent people hurt, even killed
- G. The stage for this battle is set, the field is the world
 - 1. Some would say that Jesus is talking about the church here
 - 2. The word He uses in the parable cannot be confused with ‘church’
 - 3. Jesus uses the word ‘church’ Matthew 16:18 - “on this rock I will build my church” and Matthew 18:17 where he discusses discipline among church members
 - 4. This word means, “the called out”
 - 5. The Greek word in the parable is where we get the term ‘cosmos’
- H. Jesus sows the word in His followers, the good seed
- I. Satan sows evil and discord in his followers, the weeds
- J. The comparison, then, is between what happens to the wheat and what happens to the weeds

II. Growth

- A. Matthew 13:26–29; 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. 27 And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ 28 He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ 29 But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them.
- B. Both the wheat and the weeds were sown in the ground (world vs. church)
- C. Jesus doesn’t comment on the part of the parable where He says to allow the weeds to grow up among the wheat
- D. But we do have a lot of history that has shown us the opposite of that statement (the crusades and the inquisitions: Spanish, Medieval, Roman, Portuguese, Christian)
- E. We are not in the business of eternal judgement, that is God’s area of expertise
 - 1. We must be the best Christians we can be
 - 2. Showing and sharing our faith
 - 3. Allowing everyone an opportunity to see, accept, and become a follower of Christ
 - 4. Everyone has the freedom to accept or deny the Christ

5. the ones who deny Him are the “weeds”

III. Gathering

- A. Matthew 13:30; Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”
- B. Matthew 13:40–43; 40 Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, 42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.
- C. We are not the reapers!
- D. Weeds
 - 1. Gathered and thrown into the fiery furnace
 - 2. Weeping and Gnashing of teeth
 - a) This phrase is found 7 times in the New testament, 6 of them in Matthew
 - b) It is always used in reference to a final judgement of sinners
 - c) “The Greek phrase for “gnashing of teeth,” literally means “grinding one’s teeth together.” When combined with “weeping,” it can be compared to hitting one’s thumb with a hammer, squeezing the eyes closed and grinding the teeth together hard in reaction to the pain.”
 - 3. 2 Thessalonians 1:9; They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,
 - 4. Mark 9:43; And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.
 - 5. Luke 16:22–24; 22 The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, 23 and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. 24 And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’
- E. Wheat
 - 1. But the wheat will not suffer this punishment
 - 2. Yes, we are all sinners and, as such, deserve God’s judgment
 - 3. Romans 8:1; There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
 - 4. Romans 8:33–34; 33 Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
 - 5. We will be changed
 - a) We are now perishable
 - b) We will be imperishable
 - c) Paul uses the idea of a seed - the seed being the perishable part because it dies giving birth to the grain
 - d) 1 Corinthians 15:44; It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.
 - 6. We will have our own room
 - a) John 14:2; In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
 - b) “Rooms” - places to stay
 - c) A place or room specifically for you (me)

7. We will be in the presence of God
 8. John 14:3; And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.
- F. Those who have the Word of God, those who are sealed with the Spirit are wheat
- IV. Wheat or Weeds
- A. Do we want to be weeds or wheat?
 - B. Those who are wheat must be... wheat!
 - C. The end of the age is coming, know your destination!
 - D. Shine like the sun in the kingdom of our Father