

Only Two Groups!

(Parable of the Wheat and the Tares – Matthew 13:24-30)

Besides the Parable of the Sower, the other parable that comes with an explanation by Jesus Christ is the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares. This parable teaches us that in this world and in the local church, there are only two groups of people from God's perspective, and His perspective is the only perspective that counts on the Day of Judgement! The two groups of people are represented by the Wheat and the Tares. The final end of these two groups of people is also revealed in this parable. Therefore it is of the greatest importance that we know which group we belong to.

The Elements of the Parable (Matthew 13:24-30) –

- The kingdom of heaven is likened to a man who sowed good seed;
- While men slept an enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way;
- The blade sprung up and brought forth fruit and the tares appeared also;
- The servants of the householder came and said, "Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?";
- The householder replied, "An enemy hath done this.";
- The servants said to the householder, "Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?";
- The householder answered, "Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."

The Meaning of the Parable (Matthew 13:36-43) – Jesus sent away the multitude and they left without caring if they understood the parable of the Wheat and the Tares or not. But the disciples remained behind and approached Christ and asked Him to explain. This was the LORD's explanation:

- The One who sows the good seed is the Son of Man - Unlike the previous parable of the sower this parable identifies for us the sower. He is the LORD Jesus Christ.
- The field is the world -- This is the world we live in. It has no reference to the wickedness of the world, neither is it a reference to the people per se.
- The good seed is the children of the kingdom -- The good seed is the wheat which represents the true believers.

- The tares are the children of the wicked one -- The tares represent the children of the evil one, i.e. the devil (slanderer).
- The enemy that sowed the tares is the devil -- The enemy who sowed the tares while men slept is the devil. He is the archenemy of the LORD and His children. He might have sown while men slept but the LORD never sleeps. Neither the men nor the servants knew. The LORD knows.
- The harvest is the end of the world -- The time of the separation is the end of the world. The LORD told his servants not to separate the wheat from the tares before harvest time. In other words let the wheat and tares co-exist in this world. But the pure and exact separation will surely take place in God's time.
- The reapers are the angels -- the reapers who will do the separating for the LORD are the angels. This means that when the Bible speaks of Christ separating the sheep from the goats, it will be done through the angelic beings.
- The gathering of the tares and their being burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of the world -- The children of the devil will be gathered together and be burned in the fire, i.e. the fires of Hell.
- The Son of Man shall send forth His angels and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend and commit iniquity -- The One who will send out the angelic beings to do this deed will be Christ Himself. The angelic beings will not have authority in themselves but the LORD has every authority as the Son of God and Son of Man!
- The tares shall be cast into a furnace of fire by Christ's angels and there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth -- The children of the devil will not be annihilated but will be sent to Hell and there will be gnashing of teeth and wailing. They will suffer and cry because of their sins and for following the devil and doing his evil deeds.
- The conclusion is that the righteous shall shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father -- On the other hand, the contrast is that the children of Christ will shine forth like the sun. Here they are called the righteous by Christ. What a tremendous privilege and honour. The place where Christ's children will shine for their righteousness is in the presence of God which is called the Kingdom of their Father!
- Who hath ears to hear let him hear -- The call is to all, to listen and take note and believe! There are only two groups of people at the end of time!

The Application of the Parable – Just as the wheat and the tares exist side by side in the world today, they will also co-exist in every local church. Believers and unbelievers all look the same from the outside. But one day the great difference will be made manifest for the

world to see. Jesus says in **1 John 3:1-2**, *“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”*

This parable of the wheat and tares is not teaching the local church not to exercise church discipline and deal with sin and sinners. Sanctification and the call to be holy as God is holy clearly teach this truth! It does mean that true and genuine believers will only be known by the LORD TODAY and He will make it known to the whole world on the Day of Judgement when His angels separate them. The LORD alone knows who children of the devil are.

The important truth is that every sinner must know that God knows. Therefore he cannot hide from God. All hypocrisy and deeds of darkness by the children of the devil are known to Him. There is no hiding from God. The day when all will be too late is the day when we die or the Day when the LORD returns! Repent of your sins NOW! Turn from sin and turn to Christ and receive Him into your heart as your LORD and Saviour. He alone is able to save you! Do not procrastinate.

The separation of the wheat and tares will be perfect! Christ makes no mistake. His authority is final and there are only two destinations . . . Hell, where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth, and Heaven, called the Kingdom of our Heavenly Father! Let all who have ears to hear, let him hear. AMEN.