

"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"

Part 20

Matthew 13

Introduction: Last week in our study of the Matthew 13 parables we looked at part 1 of the Wheat and the Tares. I want to do a brief review and as we do I want to go a little deeper into the parable. We are not left to ourselves to interpret this parable because Jesus does it for us.

➤ **The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares**

Part 2

Notice Matthew 13:36-43

The first parable we looked at was the Parable of the Sower and in that parable, Jesus is the Sower therefore we can understand that this age which we are in that began on the Day of Pentecost is an age were Jesus is active through His church spreading the Gospel. This spreading of the Gospel will continue after the church is raptured away through 3 means. It will begin with the two witnesses of Revelation. They will come on the scene in the beginning of the Tribulation. Then the 144, 000 Jewish men of Revelation 7 who will be missionaries. Then there will be the angel who flies over the earth proclaiming the Gospel.

Revelation 14:6-7

⁶ And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

⁷ Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Then immediately at the beginning of this age Satan began to sow a false gospel which produced false believers known as tares in this second parable. Satan will counterfeit all that the Lord does and so just as Jesus has His church so Satan also has his false church.

We can see in the Scriptures that it was not long until Satan raised up his false preachers and teachers.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Notice Matthew 13:38-39

Last week we also considered that the tares were "darnel" which closely resembles wheat and it is very difficult to distinguish between the two. In the same way Jesus is letting His disciples know that the false believers whom Satan places in the midst of true believers will be very difficult to distinguish. Let us notice an example.

Matthew 26:20-23

²⁰ Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.

²¹ And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

²² And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?

²³ And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.

When Jesus announced that one of His disciples would betray Him, none of them suspected Judas. The tare among the wheat was impossible to detect. Judas had not fooled the Lord, but he had fooled every one of the disciples.

Notice Matthew 3:39-40

These false believers will be in the church right alongside the believers until the end of the world/age. This means that trying to reform this world is a waste of time.

Notice the words of Pink:

"We see here the worthlessness of "reform" movements and efforts. It is an idle dream that we can improve the world by gathering out noxious weeds-banish drunkenness and immorality, purify politics, etc. Men might as well attempt to purify the waters of the Dead Sea! The Lord has said, "Let both grow together till harvest." Then do not waste your time on the cultivation of the tares. "Preach the Gospel" is our marching orders."

Notice what Paul wrote to Timothy.

2 Timothy 3:1-8

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

² *For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*

³ *Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,*

⁴ *Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;*

⁵ *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

⁶ *For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,*

⁷ *Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

⁸ *Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.*

This is not an age where good overcomes evil. It's an age where good and evil are co-existing. And you'll notice also that there's no separation between the wheat and the tares until when? The "end of the age." So do not expect things to improve until Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation period and establishes His kingdom.

Now let me take you back to something that needs to be said and noted. This age we are in cannot be the Kingdom as many teach. There are two main reasons why this cannot be the Kingdom.

1. The Kingdom will be full of righteousness.

Habakkuk 2:14

¹⁴ *For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

Isaiah 11:6-9

⁶ *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.*

⁷ And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

2. Satan is active today and will not be during the Kingdom.

Revelation 20:1-3

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

² And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

The separation of the wheat and the tares will be when Jesus returns. That is when evil will be rooted out.

Notice Matthew 25:31-46

These verses picture the gathering of the tares when Jesus returns. We can also see this pictured in Jesus' Words in Matthew 24.

Matthew 24:29-31, 37-41

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

³⁷ *But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

³⁸ *For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,*

³⁹ *And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

⁴⁰ *Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*

⁴¹ *Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*

Many of these tares will make up the apostate church that will continue after the rapture. Some of these tares will be destroyed at the mid-point of the Tribulation.

Notice Revelation 17:1-18

Conclusion:

We cannot root out the tares, but we can preach the Gospel to the lost. There are many who are caught up in trying to reform this nation but based upon what the Lord says in this parable it will not happen until the end of the age. Jesus will rid the world of evil when He returns.