

March 7, 2010

PRINCIPLES FROM THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND TARES
MATTHEW 13:24-30; 36-43

Satan cannot uproot the true Christians, so he plants counterfeit Christians in their midst. Jesus Christ is sowing true believers in the world to bear fruit. Where ever our Lord sows a true Christian, Satan comes and sows a counterfeit.

There are counterfeit Christians who believe a counterfeit gospel (Gal. 1:6-9). Satan has a counterfeit church (Rev. 2:9). At the end of the age, he will produce a counterfeit Christ (2 Thess. 2:1-12).

I. THERE IS THE DOCTRINE OF DIETY.

- A. God's ownership (v.38) "The field is the world." God is the Sovereign Creator of the universe. God is the owner of the field (v.24) "His field." The world acts like the devil owns the world, and acts like the world is going to remain in the hands of the devil. God is going to give it to us.
- B. God's objective (v. 37). He is planting good seed – us. If it were not for the children of God in this world, God's wrath would have already fallen on the earth. God plants good seed and reproduces Himself in places to correct those problems and to bring about cures to the spiritual ailments.

You're not an accident or an after thought. It's all according to God's sowing of the seed in the world. Someone witnessed to you, preached to you, or taught you. We owe the Lord a debt, and we owe mankind a debt.

II. THE DOCTRINE OF THE DEVIL (V. 25 & V.39). Satan is a trespasser, an evil influence, and a being of extreme subtleness.

- A. The sleeping of Christians (v.25) "while men slept." This is a rebuke for us, because as we spiritually sleep, Satan sows his crop among us.

The disciples slept as Jesus faced a terrible ordeal in the Garden of Gethsemane. They offered no prayers, no encouragement, and no support for Jesus. Eutychus slept while Paul preached. He slept through one of the greatest times of his life (Acts 20:9).

No doubt we've missed some great things while we were spiritually asleep. We've allowed some terrible things while we were spiritually asleep – didn't obey, didn't pray, didn't worship/witness.

- B. The sowing of counterfeits. God's enemy, Satan, came and sowed. The devil never sleeps. Man sleeps, the devil sows. He slips in and sows tares among the wheat. The wheat is the children of God (v.38). The tares are the children of Satan. Satan works in and weaves in the fellowship of God's people counterfeit believers.

Satan mixes the lost (bad) with the saved (good). Judas Iscariot was a counterfeit Christian and a counterfeit disciple. Jesus said that Judas was a devil.

The lost can look so much like the saved that you can't tell the difference until the harvest. The plants look the same. In the early stages, the grain looks the same. Wheat is golden but the tares or darnel produces a black seed. "By their fruits you shall know them." Satan sows counterfeits in every church. They have never had the real experience of salvation.

III. THE DOCTRINE OF DESTINIES (v. 30, 40-43).

- A. Destiny involves discipline (vs. 28-30). Shall we separate the wheat and tares? Jesus said, "No, let them both grow together until the harvest." That takes discipline. You can try to straighten out the bad to the harming of the good. It's better to encourage the right than to try to straighten out those that are wrong. It's like with the wheat and tares, because you can destroy the good while destroying the bad.

"Let both grow together." God didn't call me to straighten out everybody or to straighten out the world. He didn't call you to do that either. Hate the sin, but love the sinner. God is the only one who can straighten out a lost person.

- B. Destiny involves a decision. There are two kingdoms and two destinies. Heaven or Hell, the choice is ours. The tares, the Christ rejecters, will burn. The angels are the reapers, and they know real Christians from counterfeits.

- C. Destiny involves division. The wheat was gathered into the Heavenly Father's barn, but the tares went into the fires of Hell. There will be a division of some families and friends forever. Judas Iscariot knew he was a counterfeit. Some are tares and are deceived about it (Matt. 7:21-23).

Have you made the right decision? If so, live like it, and serve God like it. Will your family have members who will be separated forever with some in Heaven and some in Hell?

