

Matthew 13: 24-30 & 36-43; ; Understanding the Parable of the Wheat & The Tares;
Session # 3 – “Sir, Did You Not Sow Good Seed” presented by Pastor Paul
Rendall, on July 24th, 2022, in the Adult Sunday School Class.

Christ’s Kingdom, He says here in this Parable, can be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field.

Matthew 13: 24-30 & 36-52 –

Mat 13: 24 “Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;

Mat 13:25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

Mat 13:26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

Mat 13:27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'

Mat 13:28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'

Mat 13:29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.

Mat 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."

Mat 13: 36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

Mat 13:37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

Mat 13:38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.

Mat 13:39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

Mat 13:40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

Mat 13:41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,

Mat 13:42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Mat 13:43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

The earthly activity of a farmer or a husbandman, the man who is sowing good seed in his field, is a good illustration of the heavenly activity of the Man of Heaven, our Lord Jesus Christ. During this whole Church age He is sowing the spiritual seed of the word of God in His field of the world. This sowing of seed which will most certainly produce a harvest of souls for the Kingdom of Heaven. John the Baptist was the transition from Old Testament to New. Christ’s Harvest, His bringing people to Himself, began with the preaching of John the Baptist, and it will continue throughout this Church age. This Parable of the wheat and the tares shows forth the definiteness of the Lord’s work in the salvation of all of His elect people.

1. Who are the good seeds which the Son of Man Sows? They are the Sons of the Kingdom.

The good seed in the Parable of the Sower was the word of God being preached. But here in this Parable it is those who have believed in the gospel and who have received Christ. They are saved people already in our Lord’s mind.

Matthew 13: 37 & 38 – “He answered and said to them: ‘He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.’ “The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.”

Who is He who sows the good seed? He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, our Lord Jesus Christ. What is the field that He sows in? It is the world, and Christ sows His seed, that is, He gives grace to those who God the Father intends to make His sons and daughters, according to His eternal purpose. God the Father and Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as Persons of the Divine Trinity, fulfill their eternally agreed upon purpose in the salvation of all those chosen by God. By and through the preaching of the word of God, these sons are effectually called, and the free gift of salvation is most definitely and particularly bestowed upon them in His good time.

The good seed sown in the field is not the word of God as it was in the Parable of the Sower. Here we find that the word has already been received into the heart, and that word has saved the person. The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom. They are children of the kingdom, even as the apostle James says in –

James 1: 18 – “Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”

We see from this verse that our Lord Jesus Christ is the One who brings us forth, according to the will of the Father, and we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures. He brings us into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 10: 7 – “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.” “Freely you have received, freely give.”

Men when they are effectually called by God are called through the preaching of the word of God.

2. Is Repentance necessary in order to become one of these seeds?

Mark 6: 7-13 – “And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits.” “He commanded them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bag, no bread, no copper in their money belts – but to wear sandals, and not to put on two tunics.” “Also He said to them, ‘In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place.’ “And whoever will not receive you, nor hear you, when you depart from there shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them.” “Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!” “So they went out and preached that people should repent.” “And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.”

So we see here that to repent is necessary to enter the kingdom of heaven. But repentance unto life is not a work that we do to obtain eternal life by our works. Salvation is not by works. Rather, it is by grace through faith and that not of ourselves. It is a gift of grace which is granted to those persons who will believe in Jesus so that they will find the power to turn away from all the sins that they have practiced, and turn to God who will free them from their bondage to sin.

3. Who then are the tares? They are those persons who were sown by the Devil. They are not children of promise; that is, the promise which relates to that person’s receiving grace because God is pleased to extend it to them, based upon their faith in Christ. Rather it is the promises related to His merciful lovingkindness, which is underserved by them, but which God freely bestows upon all who have believed; all who have been called by the Father, and have had a work of the Holy Spirit done in them of regeneration.

Romans 9: 1 – “I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart.” “For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all the eternally blessed God.” “Amen” “But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect.” “For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, In Isaac your seed shall be called.” “That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.”

They are those who God endures with much longsuffering as vessels of wrath prepared for destruction. And even as in our Parable here, they are allowed to remain in and amongst the field of the world, some of them even managing to get into the visible local church. But at the end of the world, when Christ returns, they will be gathered out by the reapers, the angels, bound into bundles and cast into the lake of fire. The righteous shall then shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

Romans 9: 22-26 – “What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?” “As He says also in Hosea: ‘I will call them My people, who were not My people, and her beloved, who was not beloved.’ “And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ there they shall be called sons of the living God.”