

Lesson 8: The Weeds and the Net

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, 47-52

I. THE VISIBLE CHURCH—what we see (versus what God knows)

A. Satan's Spite (25) *demonic opposition to the spread of God's kingdom*

- 1. Our enemy is real.** Lying, scheming, slandering, murdering, enemy of God and good
- 2. Our enemy is active.** (1 Pet 5:8; Eph 4:26; 2 Cor 2:11) —always looking for opportunity to destroy the work of God and to hurt what God loves

B. Double Agents (2 Cor 11:14-15; 1 Jn 2:19) *Satan's servants disguised as saints*

Not everyone in the professing church is redeemed; hypocrites, traitors and apostates

C. God's Care (29) *He tolerates the weeds in order to protect the vulnerable wheat*

- 1. Premature, over-zealous attempts to purge the Church harm it.**
- 2. Our goal should be to nurture, protect, and grow the wheat to maturity.**

II. THE COMING JUDGMENT The final, great separation

A. It Is Coming. *What you see now is not the permanent state of things.*

- 1. At the End of the Age** (Gen 15:16; 2 Pet 3:9) God is *patient* and provides *numerous opportunities* to repent, but there will be an end.
- 2. Jesus will do it**—He will judge His church and the world.

B. It Will Be Comprehensive. *Nothing will be overlooked; God will make no mistakes.*

- 1. Wicked people will be separated from the righteous.** (Ps 1:5-6; Isa 35:8, 10)
- 2. All that causes sin will be removed.** Sin itself and its sources will be removed!

C. **It is Determined.** (Heb 9:27)

1. **This life will be judged.** (Heb 9:27) There is no second chance after death.
2. **Now is the time to repent.** (Isa 55:7; Heb 3:12-15) The offer of grace is urgent.

D. **Its Verdict is Permanent.** *The Great Judgment is the highest court of appeal.*

III. **THE ETERNAL DESTINY**—*our placement for eternity*

A. **The Punishment of the Wicked** (1 Jn 5:12)—*Hell is for real!*

Justice is certain; don't be lulled into a false sense of security!

1. **Fiery Furnace** (Lev 4:21; Heb 13:11)—a garbage incinerator
2. **Weeping**—sorrow, misery and relentless regret
3. **Gnashing of Teeth** (Ps 112:10; Acts 7:54)—angry resentment and vexation

B. **The Reward of the Righteous**—*No more sin; everything as it should be!*

1. **Shining like the sun** (1 Jn 3:2)—as we should be
2. **In their Father's Kingdom**—where we should be and in proper relationship with our Creator; we are HOME.

“Then we shall be where we would be, then we shall be what we should be;
Things that are not now, nor could be, soon shall be our own.”
(Thomas Kelly, *Praise the Savior, Ye Who Know Him*).