

stories: The Wheat and Weeds

August 30, 2009

Matthew 13:24-30

Living for Jesus, in a world that doesn't

Introduction:

- I think that the worst 4 words that a kid can ever hear is "Let's plant a garden!"
- I remember moving onto our 10 acre piece of property when I was 6 years old. It had everything! Woods, old sheds that had all kinds of junk left in them. It had a 6 stall barn with a huge hay loft, a 2-3 car garage with an attic...all kinds of space! I remember my family talking about getting some ponies and horses...and we did!
- This place is awesome! Until spring came and I heard those words, having just turned 7, I knew what they meant, "Let's plant a garden!"
- This wasn't going to be a 10' x 10' garden...oh no, that's small time, we could have done that at the house in the neighborhood...
- The field we were going to use...for a family garden, was about 1.5 acres (almost a football field and a half)
- I was too young to use the rotor-tiller, I did a little bit with the rake, but getting the rows ready was a job for my older brothers. I got to help plant...that wasn't too bad.
- What is a 7 year old going to contribute to this garden? WEEDS! I get to pull weeds!
- Pulling weeds STINKS! It's awful, monotonous work. It's hot, and dirty, and buggy and simply is no fun. I use it as a punishment for my kids...they come in the house, "I'm bored!" Let's go pull weeds, I'll show you what boring is!"
- While it is all those things, finding the weeds and pulling them was easy.
- If you've had any experience at all with farming, or gardens, no matter what size they are, it's hard work! And while your larger farms today have gotten more complex, farming still has a simplicity to it that I love! You might work hard to get the ground ready and the seed planted, but God to this day is the one who makes the sun shine and the rain come! God still does the work! The only reason that seed becomes a plant that produces is because of God.
- Today's parable is a little different compared to the previous 2 weeks...we've talked about the sower, which most of you were probably familiar with, the lost sheep, coin and son

last week, again familiar. Today's is one of those that you read and move on. It doesn't get the attention that other parables have gotten.

- Today's parable, The Wheat and Weeds, is only found in the Gospel of Matthew, of the 40 parables that Jesus told, he only explains 2 of them in scripture, The Sower, and this one.

- Before we jump into the parable I want to give you a scripture that will set your thoughts on the passage.

1 John 3:9-10, "9 Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God. 10 So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God."

Matthew 13:24-30 - The Parable of the Wheat & Weeds

24 Here is another story Jesus told: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. 25 But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away.

- This was not an uncommon practice in that day...it was criminal, punishable by Roman law, it was a way to weaken your enemy, weak his family, it could literally destroy a family, not a family of 4 or 5, but a family of generations with grandparents, fathers, mothers, sons and daughter and possibly their spouses and children. Their income and livelihood were threatened.

- do you think he had their attention?

26 When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew.

- The particular weed is thought to be "darnel", which looks just like the wheat
- it wasn't until the wheat had grown it's grain, it's fruit that they were able to notice

27 "The farmer's workers went to him and said, 'Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?'

28 "An enemy has done this!' the farmer exclaimed.

"Should we pull out the weeds?' they asked.

- Common sense told the workers that when weeds come in, you pull them out.
- But, these weeds may have been so populace that it would do more harm than good.
- Even so, this is the point of the story where the farmers perked up their ears

29 "No,' he replied, 'you'll uproot the wheat if you do. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.'"

- No. Wait for the harvest

- No. It's not your job, but the harvesters job to sort them out.

- They will take away the weeds, and burn them

- They will take away the wheat and put them in the barn.

Matthew 13:36-43 - Jesus Explains the Parable

³⁶ **Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, "Please explain to us the story of the weeds in the field."**

- They move away from the crowd, not giving the explanation to every one who heard the parable, but only to his disciples.
- Why? Jesus gave his disciples the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom, the ability to "see" and "hear", but they still need his help with this one!
- Maybe it was the strength of what they heard.
- Maybe they just didn't understand the terms, who is who? That's what Jesus explains to them.

³⁷ **Jesus replied, "The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. ³⁹ The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels.**

- Jesus sows truth, those who except his truth are the people of the Kingdom. The devil sows lies, those who believe his lies belong to him. The devil still sows lies in this world today!

- If you are good, or if your good out weighs your bad, you'll go to heaven
- There are many different roads that lead to heaven, just pick one.
- You have time, live your life and enjoy it while you can.
- You are free to do whatever you like, grace has you covered.

The truth is, there are no half-weeds/half wheat hybrids, you either except the truth that is Jesus, or you've accepted a lie of the enemy, Satan:

1 John 5:11-12, **"¹¹ And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life."**

1 John 3:9-10, **"⁹ Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God. ¹⁰ So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God."**

⁴⁰ **"Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!**

- Notice again where the Kingdom is!! It is represented in the hearts of his people! It is here and now!

- For those who believe that Jesus never talked about Hell...
 - Hell is a reality, ugly and God doesn't want anyone to go there.
 - But God is just and sin has a penalty
 - God is loving and paid for that sin with the death of His own Son
 - God is a gentleman and gives you and I the right to choose the truth or believe the lie.
- Anyone who has ears should listen to this, and UNDERSTAND!

2 Things:

1) The Farmer - The Son of Man has allowed for the weeds (unbelievers) and wheat (believers) to co-exists...to live together.

- I realize for those of you who haven't stepped across the line of faith, this might seem offensive, I'm not trying to offend, but you should know the truth
- When you accept Jesus as the truth, you are to become more like Jesus.
- When you accept the lies of this world, you might not do what we would consider evil, but for those who do evil, they accepted the lies of the devil...and in this the question of "Why does God allow evil things to happen?" is answered.
- Evil originates from Satan, not God, but until the harvest, God is going to allow mankind the free-will to accept the truth or accept lies.

But His plan for this world, is that the wheat would produce fruit...

2) The Wheat & Weeds - Neither the wheat or the weed is pulled to quickly:

- We must show ourselves by the fruit (or grain) we produced
- We must look different than the rest of the world.
- We are not suppose to isolate ourselves from the world.
- We must be bold in our faith, strong in what we believe!
 - stop being a sissy at the water cooler
- Weeds did not prevent the wheat from producing fruit!
 - we live in a world that wants to strangle and choke the message of Christ. To distort it.

Conclusion:

- When you've accepted the seed of truth, the good seed, you need to be living for Jesus in a world that doesn't. You should look different, the thing that is most different about you is that you produce grain or fruit.

- Jesus said simply, "Anyone with ears to hear, should listen and understand!"