

## Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 NIV

# Wheat (repentant) and Weeds (unrepentant) Intertwined Now, Separated Later!

Sunday, July 20 at 9:00 + Monday, July 21 at 7 PM  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2014

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ:

Last week we said that parables have two levels of meaning:

- A **basic** meaning that is earthly, physical, and temporal.
- A **deeper** meaning that is heavenly, spiritual, and eternal.

Then we focused on the parable of the sower, which ultimately points to → God's Word being given and → the condition of the various hearts which receive it:

- Some are **hard** – *so the Word has no effect!*
- Some are **shallow** – *so they believe a while, then fall away!*
- Some are **thorn-infested** – *they love riches more than Jesus!*
- Some, by God's grace, are **good** – *they gladly receive God's Word, believe in Jesus as their Savior, and live for Jesus!*

Today we focus on the parable of the weeds (a.k.a. the wheat and the tares), which points to → *Christian congregations today* and → *the separation that will occur when Jesus returns!*

1. **The Parable of the Weeds:** Spoken to the crowds (v. 34):  
<sup>24</sup> **Jesus told them another parable:**

- a. **The Situation:** "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went

away. // Since the seeds were sown at the same time, *the roots became intertwined!*

- b. **The result:** <sup>26</sup> **When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. <sup>27</sup> The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup> 'An enemy did this,' he replied.** // Picture the field: It's not 95% wheat and 5% weeds; it's more like 50, 50 → *an enemy has done this on purpose!*
- c. **The response:** **The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' <sup>29</sup> 'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'** // Again, if the roots are intertwined, pulling one may also pull the other; therefore, it is best to patiently wait for the harvest – *when both kinds will be pulled and separated!*

**In between the parable of the weeds and the explanation, Jesus told two more parables (vv. 31-33):** ♦Of the mustard seed and ♦of the leaven! Even though a mustard seed is *very small* and leaven seems *very insignificant*, over time the seed can grow *very large* and the leaven can make *a huge difference!* The same is true for God's kingdom – *seemingly small and minor*, yet *growing and major* in every person who is → *sorry for his/her sins* and → *trusting in Jesus as his/her only Savior!*

2. **The Parable of the Weeds – Explained:** <sup>36</sup> **Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came**

to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”<sup>37</sup> He answered,

- a. The meaning of each person and each component:
  - i. **“The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man.”** That is Jesus, God’s Son, *who lived and died for you and me!*
  - ii. <sup>38</sup> **“The field is the world...”** That includes every nation, *no place is left out!*
  - iii. **“...the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom.”** Those are the people **who** ☺are sorry for their sins, ☺believe in Jesus as their only Savior, and ☺do desire God’s reign over their hearts and lives!
  - iv. **“The weeds are the sons of the evil one...”** Those are the people **who** ☹are not sorry for their sins, ☹do not believe in Jesus as their only Savior, or ☹do not desire God’s reign over their hearts and lives!
  - v. <sup>39</sup> **“...the enemy who sows them is the devil.”** ↓He wants every person to doubt God’s Word; ↓he is the one who tempted Adam and Eve; ↓he is the one who brought great affliction upon Job; and ↓he is the one who prowls about like a roaring lion seeking to devour every Christian!
  - vi. **“The harvest is the end of the age...”** When God created, *time began*; when Adam and Eve fell into sin, *we entered our present evil age*; when Jesus returns, *He will bring our present evil age to an end!*

vii. **“...the harvesters are angels.”** When Jesus comes, the angels will “separate the wicked from the righteous...” (Mat 13:49 NIV)

- b. The ultimate meaning of the parable:
  - i. <sup>40</sup> **“As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age.”** <sup>41</sup> **The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.** <sup>42</sup> **They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”** // *Since we all fall into sin, who are those people who will be super-sad forevermore? They are the *unrepentant* – ☐who have little or no interest in God’s Word, ☐who are not sorry for their sins, and ☐who are trusting in their own goodness for heaven☹!*
  - ii. <sup>43</sup> **“Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”** // *When Jesus comes, those who know Him will truly shine! But what about now? From our own perspective everyone ♦does some good **and** ♦commits some sin, so who really makes the difference? **JESUS!** Unrepentant sinners (no sorrow, no faith) are lost, *but repentant sinners (sorrow, faith) will be saved!**

**Conclusion:** Finally, Jesus said: <sup>43b</sup> **“He who has ears [to hear], let him hear.”** And all God’s people said: **Amen!**