

Title: A Parable to Co-Exist

Passage: Matthew 13:24-30 (and v. 36-43)

Parable:

"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."

Application:

- Preach Christ as we co-exist with non-believers
- Celebrate the King's bounty

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- Whose world is your world?
- In what ways do you need to alter your lifestyle (either attitude or action) in order to be more like wheat and less like a weed?
- What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?

Introduction

God's kingdom will be established

- But Israel must first repent.
 - Thereafter, Jerusalem will be the capital and the Anointed One will reign.

Phrase: The kingdom of heaven

- a kingdom from a heavenly source that comes to earth.
 - The prophets promised this to Israel from which the blessing of the nations would come.

- John the Baptist's message first proclaimed. Jesus came doing likewise.

Matthew 3:1-2

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

- But the religious leaders rejected the message of repentance

Matthew 11:20

Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent.

- At certain point, Jesus then pivots to parables
 - Jesus now talks about two ages
 - An age where kingdom of heaven exists with Satan's people
 - An age to come of Jesus' second coming where kingdom will be fully established.

Matthew 13:11

And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

- By God's sovereignty, he grants understanding to know about the kingdom of heaven.

Passage:

Matthew 13:24-30

He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'""

Matthew 13:36-43

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

EXPOSITION

Matthew 13:24

He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field,

Matthew 13:37-38a

He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom.

- Man = Jesus, the Son of Man
- the field = the world
- good seed = sons of the kingdom
- weeds = sons of the evil one

Matthew 13:25

but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.

- his men = pastors and evangelists
- sleeping = grace of rest
 - Message of rest is for all

Psalms 127:1-2

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city,

the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.

- Question: Whose world is your world?
 - Song: "This is my Father's world"

1 Corinthians 10:26

For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof."

his enemy came

- his enemy = Satan
 - Satan is primarily the enemy of the King.
 - we cannot kill Satan but Christ can!

sowed weeds among the wheat

- What Satan does.
- weeds = kind of weeds that looked like actual wheat.

Matthew 13:38b-39a

The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil.

- weeds = sons of the evil one
 - Sowed among the good.

Jude 1:4

For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Acts 20:29

I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

and went away

- Satan does not stay. Our flesh sins on its own.

James 1:13-15

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Matthew 13:26

So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.

- appeared also = they were made evident, became apparent
- The way the weeds become apparent is because of the wheat. In contrast, able to see the weeds.

Matthew 13:27

And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?'

- Servants observed and went to the Master
 - Good example that we come to God in prayer with what we see.

Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?'

- But wrong question. Pointed the responsibility and blame at the Master.
 - Likewise, we may grow frustrated and question what is happening in the world and question what God is doing.

Matthew 13:28a

He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.'

- Master points to the true source = the enemy.

Matthew 13:28b

So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'

- Echo of James and John who are quick to destroy.

Luke 9:54-55

And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them.

- Jesus rebuked the disciples, not the Samaritans.
- Today, this is an age of grace.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Matthew 13:29

But he said, No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them.

- Master's gracious response and instruction. His care for the weak or young wheat.
 - Likewise, God is very gracious to His beloved ones. Cares about the welfare of the weak believer.

Matthew 13:30a

Let both grow together until the harvest,

- Both wheat and weeds are allowed to grow together.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

- in God's sovereign design, the wheat grows best with weeds together.
 - Likewise, God has sovereignly placed you where you are to grow in Christ.

Matthew 13:30b

and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."

Matthew 13:39b-43

The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth

- Stark picture of hell

Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

- Beautiful picture of heaven

Philippians 3:21

who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

1 John 3:2

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Revelation 22:12-13

"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

APPLICATION

Preach Christ as we co-exist with unbelievers.

- because it will not last forever. The end is coming.

Celebrate the King's bounty

- Rejoice in lives transformed and brought to Jesus.