

6.8.2025

Series: Jesus' Parables About the Kingdom, Part 2

Topic: **Wheat among Weeds: Thriving in a Mixed-Up World**

Text: Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43 NIV

I. Text: A World of Harvest Opportunity

³⁶ 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." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. ⁴⁰ "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ 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. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

I. The Field is the World – Not the Church (v. 38)

- **Truth:** Jesus says the field is the world, not the church. We shouldn't be surprised when evil exists around us.
- **Application:** Jesus didn't save us to take us out of the mix.
John 17:15 NIV – "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one"
- **Encouragement:** God knows where His people are planted—even in tough soil.

Principle 1: Kingdom People focus on the Assignment!

II. The Farmer is Patient – So Should We Be (v. 29–30)

- **Truth:** God allows both wheat and weeds to grow until the harvest.
- **Application:** Don't panic when evil seems to thrive—God is not slow, He's patient.

2 Peter 3:9 NIV - "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise... He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

- **Encouragement:** God is long-suffering and patient, even with evil people (who are sinners), just like he was/is with you/us.

Principle 2: Kingdom People are Harvest Minded!

III. The Harvest is Coming – Stay Faithful (v. 39–42)

- **Truth:** Judgment will come. God will deal with evil in His time.
- **Hope:** Evil doesn't get the last word—God does.
- **Encouragement:** Our task is to stay faithful. Constantly look for opportunities and open doors.

I Corinthians 16:8,9 NIV – But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, 9) because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

Principle 3: Kingdom People are of Faith and Stay Faithful!

IV. The Righteous Will Shine – Keep Growing (v. 43)

- **Truth:** Our destiny is to shine in God's kingdom. Yes, there will be an end-time reckoning, but the job of separating belongs to Jesus and His angels!
- **Encouragement:** Our job is to keep on growing, even if you feel surrounded by weeds.

Philippians 2:14-16 NIV – 14) Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15) so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." **Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky** 16) as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that **I did not run or labor in vain.**

Proverbs 4:18 NIV – The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, **shining even brighter till the full light of day.**

- **Application:** You're getting brighter, better, and running more proficiently, finding your stride! Shine!

Principle 4: Kingdom People are Growing People.