A World of Wheat n Weeds

Matthew 13:24-43  8-7-16

I. Slide1 Announce:
   A. Slide2,3 Andrew P - Couples Retreat. Children’s Ministry.
   B. Slide4 Rick & Lorraine - Divorce Care.
   C. Slide5 Brian - Sun Night Prayer: 1st Sun night of the month, in Sanct, 6:30-7:30.

II. Slide6 Intro:
   A. I would like to start with something pretty funny. 2 weeks ago when I shared about the parable of the Soil, I made an emphatic statement, some called this the parable of the Seed, some the parable of the Sower but I liked best the parable of the soil...because it’s about the 4 diff soils of the heart.

   1. It was brought to my attention by my friend Mike, that he heard me read in the parable itself that Jesus called it the parable of the Sower in 13:18. So in conclusion...I believe Jesus was right...and I was less right :)

   B. Slide7 These parables now outline...Gods Program & Satan’s opposition to it.

   1. The kingdom (the realm ruled by God) begins in the OT & is designated by 2 things: the people of Israel & the land in which they lived.

   2. The kingdom in the NT begins with the sowing of the Word in Christ’s day and continues to the end of this age.

   3. The kingdom of God/Heaven in Mt.13 is in mystery form. It does not refer to the earthly kingdom of Messiah but rather to the kingdom here on earth during the King’s absence.

      a) The kingdom of heaven is a mixture of good/evil, true/false [wheat/tares; dragnet good/bad fish].

      b) It is not the church. The church is in the kingdom of heaven, but distinct from it.

      c) The kingdom of heaven is equivalent to our term Christendom. It is made up of all who profess allegiance to the King, whether in truth or pretense. WEONT

   4. The kingdom is the rule of God; the church is a society of men. The church is the custodian of the kingdom (we’ve been given the keys to the Kingdom).
a) So the church **proclaims** the good news *of the kingdom*, and those who **come into** the church **begin to experience** the blessings of God’s rule in their lives.
b) The future reign of God breaks into the present (*it is already here*) and yet, it is not here fully.
c) Therefore those who believe in Christ will **begin to experience** something of what God’s final kingdom reign will be like: *we will know some measure of victory over sin, over demonic opposition, and over disease.*
d) Eventually, Jesus will return and His kingdom reign will extend over all creation.

C. So each parable given by Jesus exposes a little bit more of His kingdom.

1. Picture coming into this sanct this morning, & sitting in the pitch black. Slowly the lighting person takes 1 slider at a time & slides it up, exposing what has always been on the stage, but previously had been hidden...now revealed.

D. Slide8 Today we are going to look at 3 oppositions to the Kingdom.


2. 1st Satan tried to oppose the kingdom by trying to **snatch** the Word from Heart’s (parable/Sower). If that doesn’t work he goes to **plan B**...*Can’t beat em join em.*

  a) Satan is the great **counterfeit**, the great **imitator**, the great **imitation**. [read 13:24-43]

III. Slide9 **MUSTARD SEED & LEAVEN** - *False Growth. False Doctrine* (31-34)

A. We have here 2 parables of **growth** of the Kingdom.

1. I wish in vs.36 they would have ask for these 2 to be interpreted also.

2. Some interpret these as **positive growths** of the kingdom (saying, both have small beginnings but spread until its dimensions were astonishing).

   Many others as interpret it as **abnormal growth**.

B. The Mustard plant in Palestine produces a large plant, but not nec a Tree. If birds normally represent evil then again both good & evil are represented in the kingdom.

C. Leaven is found 98 x’s in scripture & every time it is a symbol or linked w/evil.

   1. It had to be removed from the Jewish homes during Passover.
   2. It was excluded from almost all Sacrifices.
   3. Jesus used it to picture hypocrisy, false teaching, & worldly compromise.
4. Paul used Leaven to picture carnality in the church, also as false doctrine.
5. Sin is like leaven - it quietly grows, it corrupts, & it puffs up.

D. Maybe the Mustard Seed - warns, watch out for the **outward expansion** of the Kingdom.
   [When the kingdom starts to go to the birds]
E. Maybe the Leaven - warns, watch out for **inward development** of False Doctrine & False Living.
F. Maybe the point of both parables is that the mighty kingdom everyone was looking for **could** issue from apparently **obscure beginnings**...like *Jesus and his few disciples*.

1. The kingdom might begin in **obscurity**, but it **would** culminate in **glory**.

### IV. Slide 10 WHEAT & WEEDS - *False Christians* (24-30; 36-43)

A. Again Jesus uses the same figure of a **sower** but it has a **diff. twist**.
B. We have 2 **planters**, 2 **plants**, 2 **plans**, & 2 **prospects** (as Dr. Jeremiah said, in his study bible).
C. The main point to the parable of the wheat & the weeds: God permits the righteous and wicked to **coexist** in this age, and tells what we should do about it, and then eventually what He will do about it. He **will** separate the wicked from the righteous. Judging & destroying the wicked, while harvesting & protecting the righteous.

1. And both sides will realize as Toby Mac sings, *This is not a test, its the real thing*.

D. Slide 11 TARES AMONG WHEAT

E. Since Satan can’t uproot **plants** (true Christians), he plants **counterfeit** Christians in their midst.
F. (24) We have the **right Man**, sowing the **right seed**, in the **right field**, then leaving the field to the care of His servants.
G. **Good Seed** - (24,38) Sons of the kingdom. Believers (not the **Word** like last parable).

1. Christ is sowing **true believers** in various places that they might **bear fruit**.
H. (25) **Sleepy Servants** - Note the evil one came in...when the believers were sleeping.

1. Know this for sure, *Satan sleeps not when men are slumbering*.
I. **Tares** (ziZania) **the bearded darnel** (typically known as darnel, poison darnel, darnel ryegrass, cockle)

1. Mentioned only here in Mt. It is the **Lolium temulentum**. It bears the closest resemblance to wheat **till** the ear appears, and only then the difference is discovered. It grows plentifully in Syria & Palestine. *Easton’s Bible Dict.*
J. **Tares/bad seed** - These are Satan’s *counterfeit*, to the true Christians. *They are professing Christianity but are not true Christians.*

1. Historically the 1st 300 yrs Satan tried *persecution* to destroy the church.
   a) 10 Roman Emperors killed thousands of saints, *but* like the children of Israel down in Egypt, *the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied & grew.*
2. In 313 AD Satan changed his plan w/an edict from Constantine, Christianity was adopted as *the National Religion.* [Satan joined the church]

K. **Slide12a** Satan seems to try to *counterfeit* everything.

   1. **Counterfeit Christians** - 2 Cor.11:26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from *false brothers*.
   2. **Counterfeit Gospel** - Gal.1:6-9 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.
   3. **Counterfeit Righteousness** - Rom.10:1-3 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since *they did not know the righteousness that comes from God* and *sought to establish their own*, they did not submit to God's rt.
   4. **Counterfeit Church** - Rev.2:9 I know your afflictions and your poverty--yet you are rich. I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a *synagogue of Satan*.
   5. **Counterfeit Christ** - Anti-Christ. 2 Thes.2:1-12

L. **Slide12b** (25) *He went his way* - Many declare Satan doesn’t exist - he’s a mere myth.

   1. Satan is *not* omnipresent, *but* this he cunningly turns into an advantage, *for* he can do more by his *absence* than by his *presence*.
M. (27) How then does it have Tares? - The question is a confession that they had been asleep. Notice the Owner had not slept, He knew who did it. Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. Ps 121:4

N. (28) An enemy has done this - We can name a number of people, but the worker behind the scene is the Devil himself.

1. We can blame Charles Darwin for his undermining creation.
   Or, Friedrich Nietzsche(a) in his promoting his God is dead slogan.
   Or, David Hume who gave 1 of the most fundamental attacks on Natural Theology.
   Or, Immanuel Kant who believed A knowledge of God is impossible.
   But ultimately, the Devil is the one behind the scene.

O. Slide13 Do you want us to go & gather? - NO! Here this church. Our task is not to pull up the False, but to plant the True. [how about: you love em, let God judge em]

1. Hasty disciplinarians have often cast out the best & retained the worst.

P. Now is the time of Growing. Grow on! Are you? Is your fruit showing white grain or no grain?

Q. (30) Time of the Harvest - End of the age.

1. We don’t know when the end of the age is, but we do know it is drawing nearer.

R. Slide14 The Reapers - The Angel Executioners will one day be employed & do the work correctly, efficiently, universally, & finally.

S. (40-42) Burn them - No words can be more suggestive of certain destruction.

1. Not only the outwardly wicked, but the false pretenders, the mock wheat shall be removed.

2. There fate is fire, the most terrible of punishments, Yet this won’t annihilate them, for there will be wailing & gnashing of teeth.

   a) Yes there is a hell & some are going there. Sorry Universalists all will not be saved.

T. (30) Gather the wheat into my barn - What a peaceful tone after that last statement.

1. All gathered, all recognized as the Lord’s grain, all housed in His storehouse.

2. He who does not believe that God will cast unbelievers into Hell will not be sure that he will take believers into Heaven. (Spurg)
Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

Dan.12:3 *Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.*

V. Slide16 Recap:

1. **The hindrance** - Satan opposes the work of God in several ways:
   a) He **snatches** the Word of God from hearts, or **smothers** the seed with worldliness, or **scorches** the shoots with persecution. [parable of the sower]
   b) If he cannot overcome the Word, he **plants false Christians** (*children of the devil*) wherever the Lord plants true believers. [parable of wheat/weeds]
   
   (1) Many people are going to hell, **not** because of **gross overt sins**, but because they have a **false righteousness** apart from faith in Jesus Christ.
   c) He sits in the branches of Christendom & influences what goes on. [prbl mustard]
   d) He **plants false doctrine** that deceives people. [parable of the leaven]

2. **The method** - Satan’s chief method of opposing God is through **imitation**. He **preaches an imitation gospel, establishes imitation churches, plants imitation Christians, etc.**

3. **The task** - True and false will grow together until the end, and **God** will separate them. Our job is not to try to **clean up** the world, although we should do all we can to better society. **Our job is to plant the Word in hearts and let God plant us in places where we can bear fruit for His glory.**

4. **Stay awake** - While we sleep, Satan works. A sleeping church is an opportunity for Satan to plant false Christians (Prv.24:30-34). **It is important that we stay spiritually awake** (Rom.13:11-14).

W.(43) He who has ears to hear, let him hear - are you listening?

X. Slide17 How to watch the Olympics: Remember **the ancient Games** were common knowledge in the 1st century, just as the **modern Olympics** are today. Everyone knew about the Olympics. Paul writes, **Everyone who competes in the games, exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.** 1Cor.9:25NASB
1. Paul basically says, *I want you to transpose the temporary struggles and triumphs of the Olympic Games onto a different level of reality - the level of spiritual life and eternity and God.* When you see the athletes run, see another kind of running. When you see them boxing, see another kind of boxing. When you see them training and denying themselves, see another kind of training and self-denial. When you see them smiling with a medal around their neck, see another kind of prize.

2. Do the same as you watch the games in *RIO,* see what God will show you & share with you...if you have ears to hear. [98' Christ the Redeemer, in every picture]

Y. Communion:

1. Bread -
2. Cup -