

A World of Wheat n Weeds

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.
- 1. **3 parables: The Tares, Mustard Seed, Leaven.** *False Christians. False Growth. False Doctrine.*
 - 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. Slide10 **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. **Slide11 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.
- 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*]
- 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.
- 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.
- Not only the outwardly wicked, **but the false pretenders, the mock wheat** shall be removed.
 - There fate is **fire**, the most terrible of punishments, **Yet** this won't annihilate them, for there will be *wailing & gnashing of teeth*.
 - Furnace of Fire** - *whose smoke goes up forever & ever*, Rev.14:9-11.
 - 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.
- All gathered, all recognized** as the Lord's grain, **all housed** in His storehouse.
 - He who does not believe that God will cast unbelievers into Hell will not be sure that he will take believers into Heaven.* (Spurg)

U. Slide15 (43) Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

1. 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 -