

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 The Parable of the Tares

Introduction: The kingdom parables picture how Christianity functions here on the earth. The first pictures the spread of Christianity thru the sowing of the seed (the spreading of God's word.) This second pictures the spreading of false Christianity thru the sowing of tares.

I. The giving of the parable by Jesus, Verses 24-30.

- A. Let me help you to avoid a mistake I used to make.
 - 1. Jesus said "The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man..."
 - 2. I thought the kingdom was like the man himself; it is not.
 - 3. It is like the whole story about the man.
- B. There was a man, a land owner, the owner of a field.
(He sowed his field with seed....wheat seed.... good wheat seed.)
- C. The problem was that he had an enemy; the enemy sneaked in at night and sowed (over sowed) the wheat field with tares.
 - 1. Tares (darnel) is a grass or weed that looks like wheat.
 - 2. One can hardly imagine someone sowing tares in someone's field, but in that part of the world it is frequently done.
- D. The young blades of the tares looked like the blades of the wheat.
 - 1. Thus the deed was not discovered until the plants put on grain.
 - 2. The tares put on a black colored grain and then were discovered.
- E. The servants reported the matter to the master and asked, "Did not you plant good grain? Where did the tares come from?"
(The master said, "An enemy hath done it.")
- F. The servants inquired, "What shall we do? Shall we pull up all of the tares?"
 - 1. The master said, "No. Let them grow together until harvest. Then pull up the tares and burn them before harvesting the wheat."
 - 2. This was the way tares were actually handled.
 - a. To pull them up before harvest would pull up the young wheat.
 - b. At harvest time the tares were pulled up, bundled and dried to be used for fuel in the furnaces.
 - 3. Then with the tares out of the way the wheat was harvested.

II. The explanation of the parable by Jesus, Verses 36-43.

- A. The good seed is sown by the Son of man, the Messiah, verse 37.
(The implication is by Him and His work crew.)
- B. The field is the world, verse 38. (It is not the church.)
- C. The good seed are the children of the kingdom of God, verse 38.
(They are the good plants which sprouted forth from the word of God, - the matured plants.)
- D. The tares are children of the wicked one, Satan, verse 39.
 - 1. These particular children of the wicked one are imitation Christians.
 - 2. They make professions of faith, then take on a form of worship that can hardly be distinguished from genuine Christianity.
 - 3. Only by their fruit can they be distinguished. (Then they are seen to be false professors, false prophets, promoting false doctrines, and sometimes establishing false churches.)
- E. The enemy is Satan, verse 39.

- F. The harvest is the end of the world (age), verse 39.
 - 1. False Christianity is not to be uprooted now, but is to be left in the world till the end of the church age.
 - 2. But God will bring judgment on it.
- G. The reapers are angels, verse 39.
- H. At the end the tares (false Christians and false Christianity) will be rooted out and burned, (in hell), verses 40-42.
- I. It is then that true Christianity will be recognized for its true value, verse 43.

Conclusion:

- 1. If you are unsaved, do not let the Devil persuade you of a false gospel to get you to heaven. (There must be a genuine faith in Christ and a genuine new birth for one to be a child of the kingdom.)
- 2. If you are saved, do not let the Devil deceive you into believing any doctrine other than true Bible doctrine. (Seek the help of God in interpreting the Bible.)
- 3. If you are truly saved and you have the opportunity of worshiping and serving God in a Bible believing and Bible practicing church, you are blessed indeed. (Only in heaven will the true value of that opportunity be seen.)

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