

## The Kingdom Parables

### The Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds

**Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43**

Why does God allow evil in the world?

Should we try to establish His Kingdom on earth?

How can we tell the difference between believers and hypocrites?

#### I. The Parable **24-30 and 36-43**

##### A. The Field

Rightfully belongs to God

The world - all of life

The Church - some have identified it so

##### B. Two Sowers

Man sowing good seed

The Son of Man - Christ Himself

Enemy Sowed tares

The Devil - Lucifer fallen from heaven

Enemy - word comes from "hate" hateful man

Tares - Darnel - plant looks like wheat - no grain

*(Experts cannot tell at first - a child can see the difference at harvest)*

##### C. The Crop

Good seed - plant = the sons of the Kingdom

Believers - growing in grace

Tares - sons of the evil one **John 8:44-45**

##### D. The Laborers

Slaves of the landowner - his men

Slept - not watchful

Desired to uproot the tares

Surprised that they were not permitted to do so

The Reapers - Angels - Assigned by God to gather

##### E. The Harvest

At the end of the age - end of time

Wheat - grain/fruitful - gathered to barns

The righteous will shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom

Tares - empty - gathered and burned

Stumbling blocks and those who commit lawlessness

Furnace of fire - weeping and gnashing of teeth

**Main teaching - *There will be evil mixed in and growing with the good until the end of the age***

What is not taught?

That God is sleeping - He does not sleep or slumber - **Psalm 121:4**

That we should judge the crops - Do not judge - **Matthew 7:1-3**

Should we not "purify the kingdom ourselves?"

In Christ day and today

**Zealots** - wanted to take their country back from Rome by means of guerilla tactics (**revolutionaries**)

**Essenes** - separated themselves from world wanting no contact with evil (**monastic orders**)

**Pharisees** - **legalists** sought to regulate all by laws and structured rules (**legalist**)

**Sadducees** - denied the existence of miracles, and thus sin itself which needs miraculous forgiveness (**liberals**)

Through the ages man has attempted to purify the church

**Early ages** - purges with sword and fire

**Spanish Inquisition** - thousands put to death

**Killing of early reformers** - translators of the Word

**Burning of heretics** - even John Calvin did this

Today - many groups condemn one another

Should we not decide what is right and wrong?

Some would say - no, But not Christ - who cleansed the Temple

The Bible has clear standards that all believers follow

The commandments of Christ

The common faith in our Savior

What should we do?

1. Search our own hearts - are we wheat or tares

Do we help or hinder the faith of others

Do we live as though we are a law unto ourselves?

2. Pray for and seek to restore those who have left the faith

**Galatians 6:1**

3. Reserve judgement and revenge for the Lord

*The outcomes of this parable should be*

**Encouragement of all who are perplexed/ anguished over evil in the world**

**Caution to the overzealous who desire to judge the world**