

Lesson 3-6 Parable - wheat and Tares (Part 2)

1. In lesson 3-5, we discussed this parable in reference to the good seed and the bad seed. This lesson is dedicated to examining the conflict between "good" (Jesus) and "evil" (the devil).

2. Please read again the parable of the wheat and the tares:

Matthew 13:24 He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field,

Matthew 13:25 but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.

Matthew 13:26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.

Matthew 13:27 And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?'

Matthew 13:28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'

Matthew 13:29 But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them.

Matthew 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" (ESV)

3. Please also re-read the explanation given by Jesus:

Matthew 13:36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."

Matthew 13:37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

Matthew 13:38 The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,

Matthew 13:39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels.

Matthew 13:40 Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age.

Matthew 13:41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers,

Matthew 13:42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
Matthew 13:43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. (ESV)

Summarizing, according to Jesus:

The man who sows good seed is: [The Son of Man \(Jesus\)](#)

The field is: [The world](#)

The enemy is: [The devil](#)

The good seeds are: [The sons of the kingdom](#)

The weeds are: [The sons of the evil one](#)

The reapers are: [His angels](#)

The harvest is: [The close of the age](#)

4. The farmer is the Son of Man (Jesus) and his enemy is the devil. The enemy tried to destroy the work of Jesus. Has this changed since the beginning?

5. Let's go back to the beginning in Genesis:

Genesis 2:9 The LORD God placed all kinds of beautiful trees and fruit trees in the garden. Two other trees were in the middle of the garden. One of the trees gave life-- the other gave the power to know the difference between right and wrong.

Genesis 3:1 The snake was sneakier than any of the other wild animals that the LORD God had made. One day it came to the woman and asked, "Did God tell you not to eat fruit from any tree in the garden?"

Genesis 3:2 The woman answered, "God said we could eat fruit from any tree in the garden,

Genesis 3:3 except the one in the middle. He told us not to eat fruit from that tree or even to touch it. If we do, we will die."

Genesis 3:4 "No, you won't!" the snake replied.

Genesis 3:5 "God understands what will happen on the day you eat fruit from that tree. You will see what you have done, and you will know the difference between right and wrong, just as God does."

6. This is the account of a conversation between the serpent (the devil) and the woman (Eve). Do you see the similarity between the account in Genesis and the parable? Did the devil plant his seeds in the woman (Eve)? What were the devil's motives?

7. As we know, the woman (Eve) did eat the forbidden fruit and gave some to the man (Adam). God found out about it, and, as a result, spoke to the serpent as follows:

Genesis 3:15 You and this woman will hate each other; your descendants and hers will always be enemies. One of hers will strike you on the head, and you will strike him on the heel."

8. According to the above scripture, who do you think are "her descendants?"

9. If we go back to the conversation of Eve and the serpent in the garden, we see that the serpent (the devil) called God a liar. The devil, then, persuaded the woman that he was now giving Eve (the woman) the real truth. If you recall from lesson 1-1 that the word of God is Jesus, so the devil started the fight by attacking God's word, Jesus. In the parable who attacked whom?

10. In the parable, the enemy sowed bad seeds while everyone was sleeping. In your opinion, why did he do this?

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

11. Could God have prevented the devil from talking to the woman? Could the farmer prevented the enemy from having access to the field?

12 Please read:

1 John 3:8 The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (ESV)

whose job is it to destroy evil?

13. The field, in the parable, is the world. Would Jesus be justified in destroying the seed had it not been planted in His field?

14. Is He (Jesus) justified in dealing with the one who meant Him harm and tried to destroy the crop?

15. In your opinion, could the sons of the evil one kill the Sons of the Kingdom?

16. How would the farmer (Jesus) feel about the loss?

17. Generally, what is the penalty for murder?

18. Is the farmer (Jesus) justified in all His actions?

19. who started the conflict and who finished it?

20. If the devil hadn't attempted to destroy the seeds (The sons of the kingdom), would Jesus be justified in destroying evil.

21. What was the devil's punishment in the parable and in reality?

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire

22. To do: This parable ends with Matthew 13:43; ask God to give you ears to hear.

Matthew 13:43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He that hath ears, let him hear.

24. Conclusion: There is a battle between good and evil; the devil is trying to destroy us. Jesus is our Savior and will triumph in the end. He will remove all sin; but, for our benefit, he must wait until the end of the age.