

WHEAT AND WEEDS: HOW CAN I RESIST EVIL?

1. Parables of the Kingdom

- ∅ Parables give concrete form to abstract truths.
- ∅ Listeners must pay close attention: *He who has ears, let him hear* (Matt 13:9).
- ∅ Truth hidden from those who are not interested. (Matt 13:13).

2. Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds (Matt 13:24-30, 36-43)

- ∅ Three elements: the owner, the good seed he sowed and the weeds sowed by an enemy.
- ∅ Weeding is delayed until harvest: then wheat to barns, weeds to fire.
- ∅ The parable is not so much about triumph of believers, but about patient waiting until God's purposes are worked out.
- ∅ Pointless to search for the perfect local church or denomination.
- ∅ We need to beware of the forces of evil, planting weeds in our lives.

3. Reality of spiritual warfare

- ∅ The devil, aka Satan, is a personal, spiritual being who is in active rebellion against God and leads many demons.
 - Jesus was tempted by Satan
 - Peter (1 Peter 5:8-11) and Paul teach the reality of Satan (Eph 6:11,12)
- ∅ Not to be underestimated: the devil is cunning, evil, and powerful
- ∅ Mistaken views:
 - Unhealthy interest
 - Disbelief
 - Figure of fun

4. What are the Devil's tactics?

- ∅ Aims to destroy (John 10:10)

- ∅ Blinds people (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- ∅ Sows doubt (Gen 3, Matt 4:3, 6)
- ∅ Temptation (Genesis 3:6)
 - Permission, prohibition, penalty
 - Disobedience leads to (Gen 3)
 - Shame/embarrassment (v7)
 - Friendship with God broken
 - "they hid" (v8)
 - they were "afraid" (v10)
 - They blamed each other (v12)
- ∅ Accusation
 - Accuses God
 - Accuses Christians before God

5. What is our position?

<u>Dominion of Darkness</u>	<u>Kingdom of Light</u>
Satan	Jesus
Sin	Forgiveness
Slaves to sin	Slaves of God
Death	Life
Flesh	Spirit
Destruction	Salvation

- ∅ Jesus has rescued us, having defeated Satan on the cross (Colossians 1:13, 2:15)
- ∅ Jesus' disciples given authority over demons (Luke 10:17-20)

6. How do we defend ourselves?

"Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes" (Ephesians 6:11)

- ∅ Belt of truth (Eph 6:14)
We need a grounding in Christian doctrine/truth to counter Satan's lies (John 8:32)
- ∅ Breastplate of righteousness (v.14)
The righteousness of Christ given to us (Philippians 3:9) to protect against guilt and condemnation
- ∅ Boots of the gospel of peace (v.15)
The readiness to speak of Christ (Isaiah 52:7-10)

- ∅ Shield of faith (v.16)
Trust in God, the opposite of doubt and fear
- ∅ Helmet of salvation (v.17)
Past, present, future
To protect the mind against doubt and accusation
- ∅ Sword of the Spirit (v.17)
The word of God (Hebrews 4:12)

7. How do we attack?

"The whole world is under the control of the evil one" (1 John 5:19)

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

The Parable of the Weeds

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.

²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.

²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

Parable of the Weeds explained

³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

³⁷ He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man.

³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,

³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

The kingdom of God advances through:

∅ Prayer
"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds" (2 Corinthians 10:4)

- ∅ Action (Luke 7:22)
 - Preaching the gospel
 - Casting out demons
 - Healing the sick, etc.

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²⁸ " 'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

²⁹ " 'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them.

³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.' "

⁴⁰ "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age.

⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.

⁴² They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.