



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Harvest!

Matthew 13:24-43

Message #36 of 80 – S1066

Sermon given on October 8, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Harvest!

Matthew 13:24-43

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 13**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Harvest!**
- Last time we looked at the first of eight parables in Matthew 13.
- Today we will look at the next three.
- The first of those three Jesus will explain to the disciples, but two He does not.
- We will do our best to interpret them.
- The first one.
- **Matthew 13:24-25**
- As we will see later as we unpack this parable this is a very evil thing to do to someone.
- A tare is a weed – possibly the Darnel plant. **Picture: Darnel – Tares**
- It is bitter if eaten and can make you sick.
- **Matthew 13:26**
- The problem with this weed was that it was almost indistinguishable from the wheat.
- It is only in the later state of development that they can be identified.
- Once the tare had developed to the point where it could be identified, its roots would be entangled in the roots of the wheat.
- It is at this point that the servants discover the problem.
- **Matthew 13:27-29**
- Before the time of the harvest, they were incapable of telling the wheat from the tares.
- And once the tares get to that point, any attempt to pull them would damage the wheat also.

- **Matthew 13:30**

- The tares must be left with the wheat until the harvest.
- Jesus will explain this parable later in the message.
- Next is the parable of the mustard seed.

- **Matthew 13:31-32**

- This is a parable that is very familiar.
- Jesus doesn't explain this one.
- We are told that the mustard seed is small.
- The mustard seed in Israel is not like the ones we are most familiar with which are herbs that don't grow very large.
- This plant, in the right conditions can grow to seven or eight feet tall or taller.
- It is also a popular food for small birds in the area.
- It was large enough for birds to find shelter and raise their young.
- One interpretation of this parable is that the church started out very small but would grow to be quite large and be a place of comfort, safety, and nourishment to those who sought its shelter.
- The next parable is only one verse long.

- **Matthew 13:33**

- Leaven is used to improve the taste of bread.
- As leaven ferments in the dough, it creates gas bubbles that make bread soft and spongy. Unleavened bread is hard and unappetizing.
- Leaven or yeast is often associated with evil in the Bible but not always (**Leviticus 23:17**).

You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to the LORD.

- An interpretation of this parable is that the gospel acts as leaven in people and in the world.
- It takes dry unappealing people and transforms them into saints.
- The work of the gospel is often hidden in a person's heart.
- The gospel, the Word of God, slowly, silently, works its way through all parts of someone's life.
- Matthew then reminds us that parables were Jesus' primary tool for teaching.

- **Matthew 13:34-35**

- We discussed this last week – parables serve two purposes – to reveal and to conceal.
- You can go back and listen to that message if you want more on that.
- As was common, the disciples were not clear about Jesus was talking about.

- **Matthew 13:36**

- Jesus had told them they were given the ability to understand (Matthew 13:10-11).

And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” ¹¹ He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.”

- That doesn’t mean the disciples would automatically understand everything Jesus said.
- We shouldn’t be surprised if we come to things in the Scriptures that we don’t understand.
- And because they asked, Jesus gives them the understanding they seek.

- **Matthew 13:37-38**

- The main message of this parable is that good and evil will always be found together in the professing church until Jesus comes back for us.
- No matter how diligent we might try to be to verify everyone’s faith, there will be tares in the church.
- They might be sitting next to you during the service.
- They might be serving in a ministry somewhere.
- Even Jesus had a tare/weed among the Twelve – Judas Iscariot.
- For about three years the other eleven didn’t know there was a betrayer in their midst.
- Jesus sowed ‘good seeds’ or ‘sons of the kingdom’ into the world.
- Every believer is a son or daughter of the kingdom.
- But God has an enemy, Satan, who hates God and everything and everyone that reflects God’s glory.
- And so, the Devil plants ‘sons of the wicked one’ right beside the ‘sons of the kingdom’.
- A day is coming when Jesus will make all that right.

- **Matthew 13:39**

- ‘the harvest’ is a day of reckoning for unrepentant sinners – the ‘sons of the wicked one’.

- ‘end of the age’ – The Second Coming of Christ to this world.

- **Matthew 13:40**

- Jesus tells us to leave the pulling of the weeds to the angels in the end of the age.

- If we are too aggressive pulling the weeds, we risk pulling up the wheat as well.

- And, it is always too soon to write someone off as a tare forever.

(Augustine)

“Those who are weeds today may be wheat tomorrow.”

- Jesus describes the fate of the tares.

- **Matthew 13:41-42**

- Jesus will separate the wheat from the weeds.

- He knows perfectly those who are His and those who are not.

- Jesus is being very clear – the consequence for not being one of His people is suffering and torment forever.

- ‘furnace of fire’ – It is hard to imagine a more horrible fate than to be burned alive.

- The only hope a person in the fire would have is the escape of death.

- In the fire Jesus is talking about there is no hope (Mark 9:43).

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched...

- This is one of the reasons why we teach through the Bible, through the easy things and the hard things, through the encouraging things and the challenging things.

- Only God knows the state the heart of every person who listens or watches these messages, we teach as though there are both wheat and tares in the congregation.

- We want those who are not God’s people to know God loves them, but we also want them to know that they can’t hide among the wheat and hope to escape the judgment that is coming to them.

- We want them to stop being a tare and be transformed through the power of God's forgiveness as wheat – to be one of His children.
- Jesus concludes this text with an encouragement to His people.
- **Matthew 13:43**
- The righteous must tolerate the wicked until Christ comes back.
- One of the things that helps us to do that is the hope we have of being in heaven with Jesus.
- David and the worship team are going to come up and lead us in one last song.
- Before they do, I am going to pray.
- If you are here today and you are not sure if you are a wheat or a tare – a son/daughter of the kingdom or a son/daughter of the wicked one.
- If you are not sure, if you are headed to heaven or headed to the fire that is never quenched - You can be certain of that today.
- Believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins.
- Repent of your sins and ask God to forgive.
- The bible says clearly that if you believe in Jesus, you will be saved.
- Then you join the rest of us who have the absolute hope of heaven. -
- **Pray**
- Worship Team plays song.
- **Communion**