**THE PARABLE OF TE WHEAT AND THE TARES – MATT. 13**

**THE PARABLES OF JESUS #8**

Today’s parable is closely linked to the previous “Parable of the Soils”. In that parable, we saw the 4 foundations that exist in people when they are presented with the Gospel. We saw that the first 3 foundations (wayside, stony ground and thorns) were all unsaved foundations. The only true foundation was that of the “good ground”. Today’s parable will be looking at the “Wheat and the Tares”. These two things represent both saved and unsaved people. In this parable, we will see some truths about the unsaved condition. We will also see the need to be very careful in our own witnessing not to help in producing false converts. We begin with:

1. **The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares – Matt. 13:24-30 -.** In this parable, we see wheat and tares. The tares look very much like wheat but isn’t. It grows among the wheat and is many times so intertwined with the real wheat that it is impossible to separate. Tares are considered to be a type of degenerate wheat that produces no grain or a greatly inferior grain. Tares when eaten either by humans or animals can cause dizziness or illness. The only way to dispose of tares is to winnow it and then pick it out grain by grain from the good wheat. As we will see, the enemy that sowed these tares is the devil. Notice in vs. 25 that when the enemy was done sowing, “he went his way”. He didn’t need to stick around and cultivate what he had sown; he knew that the tares would rise on their own. This teaches us that the devil is very good at identifying what to sow in everyone’s life. He generally doesn’t have to do anything else but sow the thought or idea. The rest he leaves up to us. This has worked since the Garden of Eden – **Gen. 3:1-6 -.**
2. **The parable explained – vs. 36-43.** Jesus begins the explanation of the parable with:
* **The characters – vs. 36-39 -.** From these verses, we see that Jesus is the Sower of the good seed which represent true believers. The field is the world where the Gospel message is sown. The tares are the false converts, the enemy is the devil, the harvest is the end of the world and the reapers are angels.
* **The fate of tares is the fate of the unsaved –** **vs. 40 -.** When the tares are separated from the good wheat, there is nothing else to do with it but to burn it. The same fate awaits the unsaved. The only thing for God to do with unrepentant lost sinners is to judge them and send them to their reward – hell.
* **The timing of this parable –** **vs. 41-42 -.** As we saw earlier, the “harvest” is the “end of the world”. The timing of this parable is immediately following the 2nd Coming of Christ. Before the Lord embarks on taking and ruling the Kingdom, He will “gather out of His Kingdom all things that offend, and them which do (practice) iniquity. Matthew 25 speaks even more clearly on this – **25:31-34, 41, 46 -.** In verse 42, we see eternal activity of the unsaved – “wailing and gnashing of teeth”. The “gnashing of teeth” is not in pain but in anger. The unsaved will be found in eternal torments and eternal anger with God. The reason – **Rev. 22:11a.**
* **The wonderful future of the righteous – vs. 43 -.** In contrast to the unsaved, we see that the righteous will “shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father”. God’s people have a wonderful future. For us who are saved before the Rapture, we await the glorious trumpet sound. For those saved during the Tribulation, their journey will be more difficult but it will still result in Heaven for all eternity. The saddest part is that Heaven is available to all; but most will reject God’s terms for their own terms and their sin. God can never be blamed for people going to hell; every person makes that free choice. God will not force people into His Heaven against their will. Most people ultimately go to hell because they never wanted God. In reality, God will give to every person the desire of their heart.