

Living patiently, trusting God with the outcome

Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43

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Place: Faith EBC

Notice how this parable complements the parable of the sower and the seed and yet there are distinct differences

Let's note a few differences between the two parables.

1. In the parable of the Sower – the problem was the soil
2. In the parable of the Wheat and Tares – the problem is that a different type of seed has been sown.
3. In the parable of the Sower – the different soils represented the different responses to the Good seed.
4. In the parable of the Wheat and Tares – the different seeds represent the believing and the unbelieving.
5. The challenge in the parable of the Sower is to see believers grow to their potential.
6. The challenge in the parable of the Wheat and the Tares is for believers to not judge the unbelieving, but to wait for the Lord.

You will recall James and John who wanted to call down fire on the Samaritan village for not receiving their Lord, Luke 9:54. The apostle Paul exhorted the Corinthians that the judging they were to do was not with the unbelieving but rather with judging the sinful behaviour of believers in this current age, see **1 Cor. 5:12-13**. Believers throughout the different ages have been subject and will be subject to persecution, ridicule and martyrdom, cp. Matt. 10:23; 24:9; Heb. 11:37.

Why parables? – see the Lord's answer, vv. 10-17

Terms defined – vv. 37-39

The Sower – Son of Man, Dan. 7:10, 13-14, 22; Matt. 25:31-46

The field – the world

The good seed – sons of the Kingdom, cp. Matt. 8:12 – a reference to National Israel, whereas here it is a reference to believers throughout the ages.

The weeds – sons of the evil one

The sower of the weeds – the devil

The harvest – the end of the age

The harvesters – the angels

However, God is using the motives of the wicked to accomplish His purposes. What might those purposes be? That believers would cry out to the Lord. That we would recognize the patience of God towards the disobedient and unbelieving. That the disobedient would turn from their waywardness, that the unbelieving would come to believe in the grace and love of God. This is illustrated in the Book of Jonah. Peter summarizes this thought well in **2 Peter 3:9**.

Read, vv. 39-43

Notice the timing of the separating? At the end of the age.

There is the **OT age**, where God chose a people for Himself, Deut. 7:6-9.

When the Lord Jesus came at His first coming, the **OT age** ceased.

There is the **Church age** where the Lord is seeking to regather the nations to make up His Church and will one day separate His Church from the world, Acts 2; 2 Thess. 2:3.

There is the **age of the Great Tribulation**, where the Lord will separate National Israel and the believing Gentiles of that time from the world, Rev. 4-19; Dan. 12; Zech. 12-14.

There is the **age of the Kingdom** where the Lord will reign on the earth, Rev. 20:4.

Therefore, in this parable, we should ask ourselves which aspect of the Kingdom is the Lord speaking about? This is a reference to the Lord's 1000-year reign, called the Millennium when the Lord will return to reign on the earth and possibly alluding to the **eternal age** and the final judgment.

Remember Jesus' words to His disciples, **Matt. 15:12-13**.

Before Jesus' earthly reign begins, He will judge the unbelievers and not permit them to enter this initial phase of His earthly Kingdom. In other words, everyone who enters the 1000-year reign will be believers. Then at the end of the Lord's earthly reign, He will judge the unbelievers of that age with the unbelieving dead of all time with respect to eternity, Matt. 16:27; 25:31; Rev. 20:11-15.

The admonition is for us is to pray (1 Thess. 5:17), to endure and to wait for the Lord.

*“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through **endurance** and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus,”* (Romans 15:4–5, NIV84)

*“They called out in a loud voice, “**How long**, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?””* (Revelation 6:10, NIV84)

*“If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls **for patient endurance and faithfulness** on the part of the saints.”* (Revelation 13:10, NIV84)

*“This calls **for patient endurance** on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.”* (Revelation 14:12, NIV84)

Read James 5:7-11; 1 Cor. 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:18-21.