

Following Jesus
True or False
Matthew 13:24-43

- I. Jesus' Parable - Good seed v. Bad Seed (24-30)
 - A. Recount Story
 - B. Wheat v. Darnel
 - 1. Wheat and Darnel look very similar
 - 2. False Friends - things that look like one thing until you find out they are not!
 - C. Serious Problem
 - 1. These look-a-likes were a big problem
 - 2. They were poisonous
 - 3. They harmed the wheat
 - D. But Don't Pull them up!
 - 1. Big interpretive issue - Why not? They are identified, why not get rid of them?
 - 2. Pulling them up will damage the grain
 - 3. Let's listen to Jesus' explanation in Matthew 13:37-43

- II. Jesus' Explanation - Sons of God v. Sons of Satan (36-43)
 - A. The One who Sows - Jesus
 - B. The Field is the World
 - C. The Seed is the Teaching of Jesus that results in good fruit
 - D. Wheat - Sons of God
 - 1. God has his own "people" so it was easy to assume that everyone in Israel was a son of God
 - 2. They weren't
 - E. Tares - Sons of Satan
 - 1. These are false friends, things that look similar to the truth but are actually poisonous
 - 2. This is probably not "bad" Christians, since they are identified, but things that oppose Christianity while being similar to it!

- a) Cults of Christianity
- b) Religious Systems
- c) "Pharisees" who offer hard work as an alternative to Jesus
- d) Remember the root causes of sin - Pride, Selfishness, desire for power
 - (1) I John 2:16 - **"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."**
 - (2) No wonder Jesus refers to these as sons of Satan

F. Harvest - Judgement

- 1. God will sort the two out at the end
- 2. This is a real event, don't be **surprised!**

G. But why does God say not to pull up the bad?

H. Because such were some of you!

III. Jesus' Application - Wheat or Darnel

A. Tares look like Wheat, except for the fruit

- 1. While identifying the tares isn't the point of the passage, it is notable that the plants major difference was obvious at harvest
- 2. Are you producing good fruit? (Last Week)
 - a) If you are not producing fruit, do you just look like a Christian?
 - b) Matthew 12:33 - **"Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit."**

B. We will have to stay vigilant against the world, it is not going away till the end

- 1. There will not be some perfect Jesus kingdom before he returns the second time

2. Don't be discouraged that Satan still has sons, they will be around till the end
 3. But why doesn't God just get rid of Satan's sons?
- C. We were all Tares (terrors) once
1. Such were some of you
 - a) I Corinthians 6:11 - **"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."**
 - b) The good news is that those sons of Satan don't have to stay that way! Take advantage of the time, reach others for Jesus
 2. Christ has set you free
 - a) Romans 6:18 - **"Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."**
 - b) You were the same way, till Jesus saved you. Keep sharing the good Seed of Jesus
 3. While Nonchristians can sometimes act like Christians, Christians can't have life behavior like unbelievers, their spiritual DNA has changed
 - a) **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."**
 - b) II Corinthians 5:17
- D. Destroying the Tares eliminates its opportunity to become the wheat
1. God does not instantly destroy human evil because he wants to accomplish good (Romans 8:28) and he wants to redeem humanity (Genesis 3:15)
 2. God is still paying attention – Romans 12:19
 3. But we all deserve destruction, in God's mercy he saves us (Romans 3:23, 5:8, 6:23)
 - a) Romans 3:23 - **"for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"**

- b) Romans 5:8 - **"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."**
- c) Romans 6:23 - **"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."**

4. God gets more glory

E. You might be surprised by who the wheat and the tares are

1. Tare - Judas

2. Wheat - Nicodemus, Joseph, Paul

a) We aren't the judge of conversion, but we should self assess!

b) I Corinthians 4:3 - **"But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self."**

IV. Jesus' Hope - Mustard Seed (31-33) **"Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof."**

A. Don't be discouraged that there are weeds out there

B. The Gospel is powerful, like the Mustard Seed

C. Like Leaven in Bread

D. The Gospel Conquers, and so do we through Jesus

E. Conclusion

1. **If you are still a tare, it is not to late**

2. **If you are wheat, think of what God can do through you, if you'll let him**

a) **Evangelize**

b) **Disciple**

c) **Live**