

Message Notes

The Wheat & the Weeds

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Parables of the Kingdom, part 3

July 3, 2005

Lord Jesus Christ,

I need you.

I see, hear and understand now that I am more sinful than I ever before believed, but more loved by you than I ever dared hope.

I desperately need the salvation and new life that you accomplished through your perfect life and death on the cross.

I understand that you lived the life that I should be living and you died the death that I deserve. Today, I repent and I believe.

I turn away from my sin and my self-effort,

and I place my complete trust in your finished work on the cross.

I receive you as my Sovereign Lord and my Savior from sin.

Save me and change me. Amen.

grace
San Luis Obispo

Message Outline

The Wheat & the Weeds

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Parables of the Kingdom, part 3

July 3, 2005

I. The Planting of the Kingdom: Its Presentness!

- The one who sows = the Son of Man (13:37)
- The field = the world (13:38)
- The wheat = the sons of the kingdom (13:38)
- The weeds = sons of the evil one (13:38)
- The enemy = the devil (13:39)

A. The kingdom is present now.

B. The kingdom is spiritual.

C. The kingdom is marked by struggle.

The reality of kingdom PRESENTNESS ought to move us toward Gospel faith, repentance, hope, engagement and investment.

II. The Growing of the Kingdom: Its Messiness!

- The Servants: *Do you want us to go and gather them up?* (13:28)
- The Landowner: *Allow both to grow together until harvest* (13:30)

A. The kingdom's growth is gradual.

B. The kingdom's growth is global.

C. The kingdom's growth is mixed up and opposed.

The reality of kingdom MESSINESS ought to move us toward Gospel forbearance, forgiveness, patience, openness, optimism, and expectancy.

III. The Harvesting of the Kingdom: Its Sureness!

- The harvest = the end of the age (13:39)
- The reapers = angels (13:39)

A. The kingdom's conquest is certain.

B. The kingdom's justice will be established.

C. The kingdom's reign will be forever.

The reality of kingdom SURENESS ought to move us toward Gospel urgency, confidence, labor, fruitfulness and sacrifice.

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 again. Summarize this parable in your own words. Compare and contrast the “parable of the soils” with the “parable of the wheat and the weeds.” How are they alike, yet distinctively different?
2. How does this parable reveal “mysteries of the kingdom?” In other words, what does Jesus reveal here that was not revealed in the OT and that would have been new/surprising to His first century Jewish audience?
3. Look at Luke 9:54. What’s going on in this text? How does Jesus’ lesson about the messiness and mixed character challenge the disciples? How does it challenge the Pharisees? How does it challenge us?
4. What is the field here? Whose is the field? Is wheat removed or are the weeds removed? How is the sovereignty of God in history reinforced in this parable?

Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What was the most encouraging or challenging thing about our message/text this week? What was new?
2. Why do we need to be continually reminded of the PRESENTNESS of the kingdom? How do you struggle with this reality? What kind of things should this reality produce in us? Why is that?
3. How does the MESSINESS of the kingdom make us realistic, but optimistic? What other Gospel qualities will this be producing in us? What evidence do you see of the gradual growth of the kingdom?
4. How does the SURENESS of the kingdom make us confident, but not comfortable, urgent, but not panicked?
5. Look back over the list of characteristics mentioned in each of the sections of the outline? Which are present in your life? Which are absent and missing? Use these realizations as fodder for your prayer now. Ask God to move you toward these Gospel characteristics.

What’s Up with Growth Groups?

Growth Groups are one of the best ways to jump into life at Grace! After a great Spring, we are looking forward to Fall Growth Groups, but taking a break this summer. We believe that Growth Groups are the best way to make a large and growing church feel like a small church.

Our goal is to have 25 Growth Groups this Fall. Be planning ahead and making room in your schedule for a Growth Group this Fall.

For more information see the Growth Groups brochure or contact Pastor Steve.