
Sermon Notes

June 2, 2019

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Weeds Among the Wheat Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Narration

- ❖ Jesus makes an analogy between the presence of weeds in the garden with important truths about the kingdom of heaven over which He is sovereign
 - Jesus points out some of what is going on in God's kingdom at the present
 - Jesus also points ahead to some of what will go on in God's kingdom in the future
- ❖ The storyline
 - the protagonist of the parable is a landowner who prepares his field and sows good seed in it
 - the villain of the story comes and sows weeds among the wheat
 - the practice of overseeding someone's field with weed seed was common enough in Jesus' day that the Romans actually had a law against it
 - anyone caught doing this was subject to a certain kind of punishment by Roman law
 - to have a whole field infiltrated by darnel clearly indicated that sabotage had taken place

- the farm hands offer to gather the weeds
- the wise farmer knows that this is not the right strategy
- when harvest time comes the crew can go through the field, yank out all the darnel, bind the weeds in bundles, burn them and then go on with harvesting the wheat

The Interpretation

- ❖ Though the disciples ask Jesus to explain the parable, they are able to identify that the weeds are the main point of Jesus' story
- ❖ Jesus identifies the different elements of His story with different people, places, and things
 - the sower = Jesus, the Son of Man
 - the field = the world
 - the good seed = the sons of the kingdom
 - the weeds = sons of the evil one
 - the enemy who sowed the weeds = the devil
 - the harvest = God's judgment at the end of the age
 - the reapers who bring in the harvest = the angels
- ❖ Two groups of people, believers and unbelievers live side by side in the world
 - God sows the children who belong to His kingdom throughout the world
 - believers and unbelievers live commingled together in this age

- this is the way things will continue to be until *the harvest at the end of the age*
- ❖ *The harvest at the end of the age* is that future moment in time when God will pour out His wrath against sin and exercise judgment on the earth (vv. 41-42)

The Application

- ❖ First and foremost, Jesus reminds us that this is God's world
 - we are not where we are by accident
 - we are planted right where the Lord wants us to be
- ❖ Part of the process God uses to mature us in faith is causing us to grow up in the midst of the trouble and adversity we face in the world (John 16:33, 1 Peter 5:10)
- ❖ Believers have opportunity to influence nonbelievers
 - all of us are born into the world as "weeds" (children of wrath, enemies of God)
 - you are either a stalk of wheat or you are a weed
- ❖ It's not harvest time until God says, "It's harvest time"
 - Jesus says: "Wait for my perfect timing."
 - God has not called the church to judge the world
 - this is the season of God's patience and tolerance
- ❖ God's people are meant to work and pray against evil
 - Jesus' church is called to be as lovingly patient and graciously tolerant toward those who resist the Lord and the Lord's way as the Lord Himself is
 - we are to have hearts of compassion, not hearts of condemnation

- ❖ It is the angel's job to do the reaping in the *harvest at the end of the age* (v. 41)
 - this is a moment of tragedy and horror
 - this is an inevitable moment, it IS coming
 - though this moment is inevitable it is not inescapable
- ❖ Those who submit to Jesus have a much different destiny
 - those who love the Lord and long for Jesus' appearing will *shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father*
 - do you have ears to hear this message?

Personal Reflection

1. Jesus' parable describes wheat and weeds, believers and nonbelievers. Do you know for certain to which group you belong? If so, on what do you base your confidence?
2. Believers have opportunity to influence nonbelievers by praying and working against evil. In what way(s) are you doing this? As you do so, how do you maintain a heart of compassion and resist having a heart that is hardened with condemnation?
3. The *harvest at the end of the age* is inevitable but not inescapable. Are you prepared for this moment? If you have any doubt about your answer to this question, please discuss the matter with a trusted Christian friend or a leader within this church.