

Identity Crisis: Wheat & Tares Matthew 13:24-20, 36-43 (ESV)

Importance of Parables:

How should the **PROMISE** of Jesus' return impact the way His children think, pray, and behave?

Main point: Because of this promise, it should impact us.

- o Having an impact means that something has a **POWERFUL OR MAJOR INFLUENCE**.
- o These parables should change the way you think, pray, and behave.

The Context:

1. **KINGDOM OF HEAVEN** being described (v.24)
 - a. We often think the phrase refers to a place or people, but it really refers to the **ACTIVITY OF THE KING**.
 - b. God's **CHILDREN** carry out the activity of the King on the **EARTH**.
 - c. The man **OWNS** the field and **GOOD SEED** was planted.
2. Enemy came at night and planted tares (weeds) among the wheat (v 25-26)
 - a. Why was this big deal?
3. Servants find out about tares being planted (v. 27-28)
 - a. The roots were **INTERTWINED**.
4. Master's Response (v. 29 - 30)
 - a. Let them **GROW TOGETHER** until the harvest then the reapers will gather tares and wheat

The Interpretation:

1. Who is the 'Son of Man' that sows the seed? (v.37)
 - a. Jesus is the Son of Man who sows the seed and it is all about His **IDENTITY**.
 - b. Jesus wants to identify with our **HUMANITY** and express his **DIVINE** authority.
2. Jesus is sowing seed in **HIS** field (v. 38)
3. Who are the crops? (v.38)
 - a. The wheat are the sons of the **KINGDOM** & the tares are the sons of the **EVIL ONE**

- b. We **WERE ALL TARES** and the wheat is planted in the world for a **PURPOSE**.
 - c. Being around tares does **NOT** change the **IDENTITY** of wheat.
 - d. Tares need an **IDENTITY TRANSFORMATION** in order to become wheat.
4. Why is all of this important? (v.39-43)
 - a. The harvest is coming and the tares will be **SEPARATED** from the wheat.
 - b. Wheat goes into the barn of the master (God's house)
 - c. Tares going into the fiery furnace (Hell)
 - d. How do the sons of the kingdom **INFLUENCE** the sons of the evil one?
 - e. What does your **FRUIT** look like? (Galatians 5:22-23)
 - f. Your fruit is not something you produce because you **DO SOMETHING**. Your fruit is the natural consequence of **BEING A CHILD OF GOD**. It is all about your Gospel Shaped Identity.

So the question becomes are you a Son/Daughter of the **KINGDON** or a Son/Daughter of **SATAN**?

Thought #1: I've put my faith in Jesus for a long time, but never considered myself a son or a daughter.

You have missed the main point of the **GOSPEL**. The Bible is God's story of creating a family.

When the world **SURROUNDS** you with lies, remember the **TRUTH** of God's word.

I am a **CHILD** of God, I am a **NEW** creation, I am **COMPLETE** in Christ, I am light.

Thought #2: The only separator in the eyes of Jesus is which **FAMILY** you are a part of.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"

Thought #3: Why does this matter to us?

The gospel message we speak **TO THE WORLD** needs to match the behavior we **DISPLAY IN THE WORLD**.

"How can you preach His gospel with your tongues, when with hands, feet, and heart you are preaching the devil's gospel," - Charles Spurgeon