

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE SERMON OUTLINE

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#2 - Series on the Parables

THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND TARES

Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

A parable means to **cast alongside of** or quite literally to **compare to or to compare with**. Parable then means **‘to place alongside of’**. It’s an illustration alongside a truth. It’s an earthly story with heavenly meaning. It’s a physical illustration of a spiritual concept.

Will everyone who goes to church go to heaven? Will every member of BBC make it? I would like to think that if the rapture occurred on a Sunday morning during our main service, that the room would be completely emptied, but according to this parable that would be highly unlikely.

Whenever you study a parable of Jesus, there is always the natural truth of the story itself, and then there is the supernatural layer of meaning below the surface. The good news about this parable is we don’t have to speculate about the meaning, the Lord gives us a full interpretation.

If this parable were made into a movie there would be three scenes:

Scene #-1: THE SOWING OF THE SEEDS

The devil attacks the kingdom of God by infiltration, and by planting imitators in the church. Paul called them **“false brethren.”** [II Cor. 11:26]

SPIRITUAL TRUTH: Jesus plants good seeds (people) in the world, but Satan plants bad seeds.

Did you notice Jesus said the wheat represents “sons of the kingdom” and the weeds represent “sons of the evil one?” (V-38) we need to understand that not everyone belongs to the Family of God. We’re all God’s creation, but only those who know Jesus are a child of God [John 14:6]. I’d rather be Biblically correct than politically correct. Amen!

Scene#-2: THE GROWING OF THE PLANTS

As the wheat began to grow, so did the weeds. A weed that often infests wheat fields is called dandelion. The servants were told not to pull up the weeds because it would damage the wheat.

SPIRITUAL TRUTH: We live in a world with bad people, but it’s not our job to remove them.

Scene #-3: THE MOWING AT THE HARVEST

SPIRITUAL TRUTH: At God’s harvest, believers will be gathered to heaven, and lost people will be separated from God in hell. **There are only two eternal destinations. One is heaven, represented by the farmer’s barns. The other is hell, represented by the bonfire.**

That’s the basic parable, but there are four personal lessons I’d like for us to learn from what Jesus said:

- 1. BE ENCOURAGED! WE FACE OPPOSITION, BUT IT WILL FAIL**
- 2. BE SURE! CONFIRM YOU’RE NOT A COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIAN**
- 3. BE CAREFUL! RASH JUDGEMENTS CAUSE MUCH HARM**
- 4. BE PATIENT! GOD ALONE WILL DETERMINE WHO BELONGS TO HIM**

A wheat farmer can easily tell the difference between wheat and weeds. Want to know how? As the harvest time nears, the top of the stalk sags downward, it bows. The weeds stand tall and straight. They never bow. What a lesson!

The Bible promises that one day, “every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.” (Philippians 2:10-11) So you can bow before the Lord today, or you can bow before Him later, but sooner or later you WILL bow.