

July 30, 2017

The Opposition Illustrated (6)

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds (v. 24-30)

- In this parable, there is a second sower who sows different seeds into the same soil.

- Jesus explains the meaning of the parable in **v. 36-39**.
 - Two Farmers: The Son of Man & the Evil One
 - Soil: Field of the World
 - Two Types of Seed: Children of the Kingdom & the Sons of the Evil One
 - One Harvest: Final Judgment

- Both the saved and unsaved are sown into the field of the world to live side by side as wheat and weeds.

- Rather than immediately separating His sons of Light (**John 9:5**) from the sons of darkness, God waits for the final great harvest to make the separation.

***Phil 2:14-15** ...do all things without grumbling or questioning, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world...*

***Matt 5:13** ...You are the salt of the earth...14 you are the light of the world.*

- Believers are to live alongside of unbelievers without becoming enmeshed in their sinful customs.

2 Cor 6:14-16 *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God*

- How are we to relate to the opposition of the sons of the evil one?

Rom 12:17-18 *...be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone...*

- Our walk in this world is to demonstrate the superior power and effect of the Gospel as we love and serve one another.

John 13:14 *...wash one another's feet...34 love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another...for ...love is the fulfillment of the law... [Rom 13:10]*

- However, we are also to remember that we live in a spiritually hostile world ruled by “the god of this world” (**2 Cor. 4:40**, who wages unrelenting war against the purposes of God in us. We have been called into God’s great cosmic battle against Satan as God uses us as His “instruments of righteousness” (**Rom. 6:13**).

Eph 6:10-11 *...be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power... [by] 11 Put[ing] on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the schemes of the devil*

2 Cor 10:3-5 ...though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ...

James 4:7-8 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts

- The righteousness of Christ in us is God's greatest weapon against all evil!

John 16:33 ...be of good cheer [take heart] for I have overcome the world...