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Matthew 13:24-43 (ESV)

24 He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, 25 but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. 27 And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?'

2

Matthew 13:24-30 (ESV)

28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' 29 But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

3

Matthew 13:36-43 (ESV)

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." 37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.

4

Matthew 13:36-43 (ESV)

40 Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, 42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

5

Theme

God alone will judge in the end, and even the smallest faith in Jesus is enough to save.

6

God Alone Judges Rightly



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God Alone Judges Rightly

- Only God can separate wheat (believers) from weeds (unbelievers).
- Jesus says the servants should not pull the weeds because “in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them”.
- We cannot always tell who is truly saved - “it’s hard to tell by looking at someone... everybody looks like they’re going to heaven”.

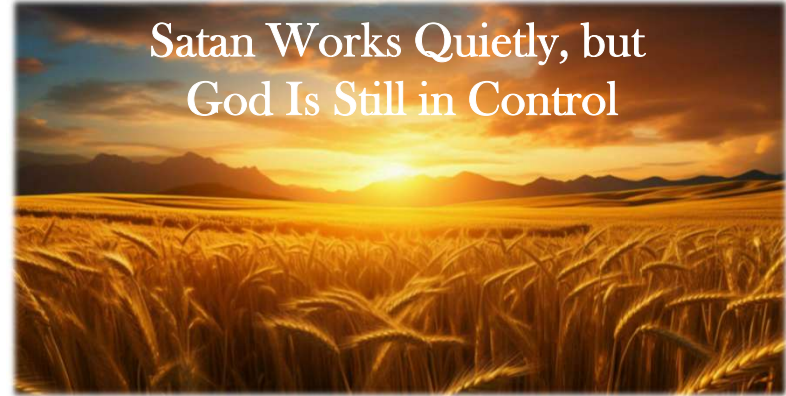
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God Alone Judges Rightly

- Judgmentalism harms the church - "Judgmentalism is cancer. Don't do that."
- Accountability must be gentle, not condemning.
- God will judge perfectly at the end of the age.

9

Satan Works Quietly, but God Is Still in Control



10

Satan Works Quietly, but God Is Still in Control

- The field is the world & God plants His people in it.
- The enemy (Devil) sows weeds "while men were sleeping."
- The weeds symbolize spiritual opposition - people or influences planted by the Devil to hinder the growth of God's kingdom.
- The weeds resist God's truth, but anyone can be transformed by faith in Christ.

11

Satan Works Quietly, but God Is Still in Control

- Our battle is spiritual, not against people - "We are fighting an enemy. We're not fighting weeds."
- God places believers where they can shine - "He's going to plant you... the moment you get rescued, you're part of the rescue team."
- Even when evil grows, God is not threatened.
- Jesus teaches that the wheat & weeds grow together until harvest - God is patient & sovereign

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Faith in Jesus Saves and Transforms



13

Faith in Jesus Saves and Transforms

- A weed cannot become wheat - but a sinner can become a child of God.
- Salvation is based on Jesus' finished work, not our performance.
- God adopts us into His family at great cost - "You were bought at a price... the blood of his son Jesus Christ."
- Righteousness is a gift which is imputed, not earned.
- Even mustard-seed faith is enough.

14

Practical Applications

- Release the burden of judging others to God - your job is to love and encourage.
- Trust that God is still working in people even if you can't see change yet, wheat & weeds look the same early on.
- Remember that your faith is precious to God - Mustard-seed faith is enough for salvation & growth.
- The enemy works "while men sleep" - stay prayerful, alert, and connected.
- Rest in your identity as God's adopted child.

15

Discussion Questions

- What comforts you most about knowing that God - not people - will judge in the end?
- Have you ever misjudged someone's spiritual condition or been misjudged yourself?
- Where do you see the enemy trying to sow discouragement or confusion in your life?
- How does the idea of being adopted by God encourage you at this stage of life?
- What does mustard-seed faith look like right now?

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