

# ***GROWTH IN THE KINGDOM!***

## ***MATTHEW 13:24-30,36-43***

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As a part of a series on the Kingdom - a couple weeks ago we began looking at what some have called the Sermon by the Sea. Jesus being surrounded climbs into a boat and begins to speak to the crowd. What is unique about this Sermon is the theme of the Sermon is the Kingdom of God. Jesus tells 7 different Parables - that Jesus calls 'Mysteries of the Kingdom' the point being that in this Kingdom operates and functions unlike the Kingdom of the world that we are familiar with.

We looked at the parable of the Sower two weeks ago and noticed that the focus of Jesus parable was not 4 different soils but rather that they described 4 different types of listening.

Today I want to talk to you about another Mystery of the Kingdom

**Growth in the Kingdom – We have a King who is committed to your Growth!**

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells the Parable of the Wheat and The Tares - Darnel - read.

Over the years my wife has had a number of different plants that we have grown around our home. Some with great success and others with not such great success. We have planted entire beds of bulbs only to have a handful emerge and fewer bloom. In our case it appears that squirrels love tulip bulbs! Other plants have done well for one season and died through a harsh winter. But no matter what they seem to all require the same things - water - weeding and Sunlight. So while you don't actually see the little plants get bigger with the human eye....you do have to tend to those pesky little things called weeds or they will overwhelm a flower bed. Most of you would say - yup that's how it works - but then we have one Perennial Flower that seems completely impervious to the rules of gardening. I mean it puts hardy in the definition of hardy - it grows no matter what!

.....its grown in flower beds, next to the lawn , back in a flower bed, next to a lawn and now it is flourishing in the flower beds in front of our home. Its like the flower that will not DIE - split it - move it - I don't think any new start of the flower has ever died....What makes this even more interesting is the fact the this particular Flower belonged to her still living 106 year old Grandmother. Grandma Helen had it given to her by her husband who has been dead for over 50 years.....so this is one old Flower! But man is it one hardy flower - move it one place to another - plant replant and it just keeps on blooming - among weeds in a manicured bed it just keeps blooming a flower bearing the same name as Denise's 106 year old Grandmother - Helen. And isn't that what flowers are supposed to do? Bloom.

Jesus in the Parable of the Wheat and Tares tells a story that had elements that would be familiar to many - the Story of a man who sowed seed in his field. But at a time he was not watching his enemy sowed Tares - Darnel. Darnel is a weed that looks exactly like wheat as it sprouts and grows....you see it is not until verse 26 that the wheat has grown and bore grain that the servants noticed something. So much so that they go to their Master - I thought we planted wheat - look what has happened.

Now this needs to be pointed out - that what the servants observed was more than just a small amount of Tares but something more - it was obvious the working of someone else. And their impulse is to ask the Master should we go ahead and pull the Tares - Darnel.

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***And the secret is simply this Christ in you!***  
***Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.***  
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This is where this story often gets lost in the teaching like the parable of the sower is not about 'heart' conditions but types of listening - **the Parable of the Wheat and Tares is NOT NOT about 'counterfeit' Christ followers.** Now to be clear Jesus specifically spoke to this issue in the Revelation - so don't hear me saying that God does not care about 'fake' religion.

Its just clearly NOT the point Jesus is speaking towards - remember now that Jesus says earlier in Matthew 13 in this sermon by the Sea - To you its been given to know Mysteries of the Kingdom The first Mystery if you will is to Hear - To listen!

The Next Mystery of the Kingdom?

Not a fear of Counterfeit Christianity - in fact He said many will say Lord Lord

- **The Kings commitment to Growth and Harvest of the Kingdom!**

**The King of the Kingdom is going to have a Harvest and no amount of Tares or work of the Enemy will stop His grand goal to have a Harvest!**

This is critical because in this parable Jesus is speaking to a direct belief system in the minds of His followers....

- Those who embraced that He indeed was Messiah - King - The Son of God;
- Expected that He would come with a Kingdom

Now the only picture of a Kingdom in their mind was this geo-political idea of a King and Kingdom -

**This King was supposed to sit on the throne of His Father David - Isaiah 9 so ...**

- It was only natural and biblical to expect that His Kingdom would come with
- Total Power to destroy the wicked
- And vindicate the righteous.....
- Conclusion – This New Kingdom could not Progress and Grow in the presence of another kingdom -

**The Mystery of the Kingdom? It is in full operation in the midst of another realm!**

- The Wheat is **growing** in the midst of the Tares!

So Jesus friends are trying to get their head around this - This is NOT what I thought the Kingdom would look like...the poor - the weak - the sinner gets in. It is not measured by economic, political or human strength. It is this whole other than realm!

And watch this because - its success - its harvest will happen because the King the rightful owner is committed to a Harvest!

Here is a Mystery of the Kingdom - by Jesus own words in Verses 36-43

- **The Field is the World**
- **Jesus** is the one who sows good seed - **these are the Sons of God**
- Tares are the **sons of the Evil one** - sown by the **Devil.**

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**So here is the conclusion beloved -**

- Jesus is speaking to His followers that they would have to grow and thrive
- IN THE MIDST of un-believers who follow the spirit of Anti-Christ.
- News bulletin -

**This is the world you and I live in!**

**The Harvest of Wheat in the presence of the Tares - This King is committed to a Harvest!**

- Remember Jesus prayer John 17:15  
*I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.*

**The Mystery of the Kingdom - Wheat growing In the Tares**

- **You can grow in the midst of pressure and opposition and in fact that is exactly what the King intends to happen!**
- **What does this mean?**

**1 - He knows you surrounded!**

- Remember Jesus said this about our Father - He knows what we need before we ask.....
- He knows the Challenge and the pressure....
- Can I say this in tender kindness - He is not just interested in you surviving your current difficulty - **This King is committed to a Harvest beloved!**

**Oh Jesus if you could just remove the pressure....the Darnel - Tares.....**

- I want you to notice something - remember the servants who came to the Master and said do you want us to gather up the tares....if you pull the weeds you will pull the Wheat'

**Beloved This King**

- Knows – and is committed to you remaining alive and vibrant!
- The Passion of His heart is a Harvest in your life!

**He knows you are surrounded.....**

**But watch this He also knows something  
His treasure cannot be STOLEN by the TARES!**

**1 - He knows you are surrounded....**

**2 - He knows the Tares do NOT define the Wheat – He does! 1 Peter 1:23**

- The Tares do not influence the Seed

**I want you to see this.....**

**One of the reasons I have un-subscribed to some of the known Christian Political updates....?**

- So many times it carries the Spirit of Unbelief.....here is what I mean by that - I read passionate words of individuals MORE convinced about the Spirit of the Age than the Eternal Seed within them!

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- **Luke 8:11 - The Seed in you is the Word of GOD - Christ in you the Hope of Glory Col 1:27**
- Notice the Master in this parable said to the servants.....*let them verse 30 grow up together!*

### **Stunning!**

- Can I say this? **You don't have to fear what you are surrounded with as long as you know what is IN you!**
- ***He is able - He IS able - He is ABLE to keep you from stumbling - Jude 1:24 and to make you STAND in the presence of His glory blameless with great Joy!***

Beloved - In this parable please notice the obvious

**Wheat - remained wheat!**

**Tares did not change the DNA of the wheat - 2 chords in Darnel and 3 in wheat!**

### **1 - He is able to keep you Authentic beloved!**

- His beloved Son and Daughter!
- He is able to Keep you Authentic

### **2 - He is able to Keep you Vibrant!**

Now the reason the farmer in this story did not pull the weeds was it would damage the Wheat!

So it grew together - unaffected by the Tares - it remained Vibrant!

Beloved - I want to say this frankly - but bodily -

- You do not have to be afraid of the world or the worlds system - **even it is set to do us harm!**

### **The Seed of God is in you - Vibrant and Alive!**

So please do not miss this obvious point -

- **Spiritual Vibrance is not a result of the Absence of the Spirit of the Age and the Spirit of the Anti-Christ!**
- **Jesus in you is what leads to Vibrance!**

Now to be clear YES - Jesus in you - The Seed of the Word - does lead us to say NO to Sin!

The Point of Jesus parable in Matthew 13 however includes this profound mystery that we can be VIBRANT while completely surrounded by the the worlds system!

**Watch this - This King -**

**Will keep His seed Vibrant and Authentic**

### **3 - This King will make the seed Fruitful!**

Remember the Kings interest is the Harvest!

- VS 42-43 - read

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### **2 things about this Harvest**

#### **1 - The Devil has a goal - That the spirit of Anti-Christ**

- Been in every culture
- Every generation – 1 John 4:3  
*“and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the anti-christ, of which you have heard that is coming and no it is already in the world.”*

#### **That spirit - now hear this - IT WILL NOT STAND It has already been defeated!**

Vs 42 - The judgment that Jesus speaks of here is what He described in John 12:47-48  
*for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.*

Again let me clarify that this judgment is all about separation from the very thing we were created to live in harmony with - communion with God.

#### **2 - The End of the Age**

- Jesus has inaugurated a Kingdom - that will be fully consummated!
- Vs 43 - *The Righteous will Shine* ( Verb like the Sun - only used once!)

#### **Reflection of Dan 12:3**

- Beloved a Mystery of the Kingdom .....
- **Fruit in your life? The Real Harvest?**
- **More about the Age to come than the present one.**

#### **Purpose of the Harvest**

##### **“Prove that God was Right?”**

Purpose of the Harvest = Worship set like you’ve never known – Rev 15:3-4

*“Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the Nations, Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your Name? For You alone are holy; For all the nations will come and worship before You.  
**For Your righteous acts have been revealed”***

Rev 21:36 *“The tabernacle of God is among men....and He will dwell among them.....”*

This Harvest will result in

- The Beauty of the God head being seen and known
- The Glory of and good opinion of the Father being known
- Thousands upon thousands stunned again and again - oh my goodness this is what you meant.

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