

"SECRETS OF THE KINGDOM" (The Parables of Jesus)

WEST OLIVE CHURCH OF CHRIST – Wednesday PM Bible Class – Rich Howell

D-"KINGDOM GROWTH PARABLES" SUPPLEMENT 2 -

The Wheat and the Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30,36-43)

INTRODUCTION: Like the Parable of the Sower, the Wheat and the Weeds is a two-part parable in which Jesus gives the PICTURE publicly (to His general audience), while giving the INTERPRETATION privately (to His chosen disciples). This parable is rich with Kingdom dynamics, implications and applications for both 1st Century and 21st Century followers of Jesus!

THE BIG PICTURE: An act of SABOTAGE produces a MIXED crop that will be SORTED OUT later.

COMPARABLE PARABLES: In "the Sower", we see ONE kind of seed sown by ONE planter in FOUR different environments with FOUR different outcomes. In "the Wheat & the Weeds", we see TWO kinds of seed sown by TWO planters in ONE place with TWO different outcomes.

THE Q & A: A fascinating feature of this parable is the dialogue between the servants and their Master (13:27-30). Identify the questions they asked and the answers He gave:

THE SERVANTS' QUESTIONS

Q1. "Didn't you sow good seed?"

"How then does it have weeds?" →

Q2. "Do you want us to go and gather them?" →

THE MASTER'S ANSWERS

A1. "An ENEMY has DONE this!"

A2. "NO" You might also UPROOT the wheat! "Let BOTH grow TOGETHER until the HARVEST..."

THE ELEMENTS (13:24-30)

The Sower of the good seed =

The field =

The good seed (wheat) =

The weeds (tares) =

The enemy =

The harvest =

The reapers (harvesters) =

The "burn" =

The "barn" =

THE INTERPRETATION (13:36-43)

THE SON OF MAN

THE WORLD

THE SONS OF THE KINGDOM

THE SONS OF THE EVIL ONE

THE DEVIL

THE END OF THE AGE

ANGELS

HELL

HEAVEN

PARABLE IMPLICATIONS (IMP's) & APPLICATIONS (APP's):

- 1) *The world is a _____ of good and evil! Both are growing, but in _____ directions (2 Tim 3:13-14) - one for the _____ and one for the _____!*
- 2) *Life has its _____! (Gen 3:17-19) What are some of the ones you observe in your own life?*
- 3) *The whole world is God's, not just _____! (Mat 28:18; Psalm 24:1-2; Acts 17:24-26)*
- 4) *Not all growth is _____ growth, or _____ growth! (Col 2:19)*
- 5) *Not all who name and claim Christ are _____ by Christ! (Mat 7:21-23; 13:14-15)*
- 6) *It's not always easy to distinguish between the _____ children of God and the _____ (2 Tim 2:19). Why is this?*

💡 **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** Does this mean we shouldn't try to teach and influence people to come out of doctrinal or moral error?

What should we be doing?

And, what shouldn't we be doing?

© **CORE MESSAGE:** So, which one of the six statements above would you consider closest to the "core" or "bullseye" of what Jesus teaches in this parable?