

**The Parable of the Weeds and the Wheat.**  
Discussion Notes on Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43  
For Home Groups week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

**Word** – Please read **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

*Q: What are the popular images of Satan? How would you describe evil?*

*Q: Therefore how might people react to Jesus' teaching in v37 that the world is divided into the sons of the kingdom and the sons of the evil one?*

So what does this teaching mean, and who is who, and how can we tell?

*Q: In what ways can people be considered a child of God and in what ways can people not be considered a child of God?*

*Q: How do people become children of God, see John 1v12-13, Gal 3:26,*

To want to be in the Kingdom of God is to want God to be King.

*Q: What does it mean to live as children of God, see Romans 8 12-17?*

God considers anything that breaks something good as 'evil', whether it be someone's physical, emotional, or spiritual well-being.

*Q: How does this definition change the relevance of evil in our life?*

God would consider the ultimate act of evil to be anything or anyone who breaks the relationship between himself as God and Father and a human being as a loved child, see Mark 9:42

*Q: If you were the Devil's advocate, what phrases might you use to entice people to be their own god, to live independently of God? How attractive do you think these phrases can be to a modern secular mind-set? In this sense can you see how many people are "children of the evil one?"*

The reality of who is God in our life (who ultimately calls the shots): us or God is the core defining statement about our identity – wheat or weeds. This is seen v30 only when the fruit of their life becomes clear.

*Q: What would you look for in someone's life to give evidence as to who is ultimately God in their life?*

The answer is in our understanding of purpose: who is it that we are living for? Who we are living for is seen in where we spend our time, energy and money – where our hopes, dreams and passion lies. The most sensitive of these and yet one of the clearest indicators is where we spend our money.

*Q: What is the two-fold purpose of wheat planted in a field?*

*Q: The taste of the fruit of the Spirit in our life should be what and why? see Gal 5:22-23.*

*Q: The purpose of the fruit of the Spirit in our life should be what and why? see Matthew 13v23.*

Believers and non-Believers may not be distinctive in how 'good' they are.... but they are certainly distinctive in their purpose of why they are good. The believer is good for the glory of God and for the kingdom (the sovereign rule of God) to grow in their and other people's lives. The non-believer has other reasons which are good – but which fall short of the glory of God (see Romans 3:23)

*Q: Would you say that as believers mature in Christ they become more Christ-like in their attitudes and their passion for mission grows? Why?*

*Q: What are the two destinies of the wheat and the weeds? If people could see into their future after they have died, v40-43 – how would it affect how they live today?*

*Q: What is the definition of a weed? And what does the punch-line of this parable mean? v43*

Heaven is not a place where people who, in their heart of hearts, don't want God as God of their life can be happy. CS Lewis said "Hell is a place whose doors are locked from the inside".

People have a choice on who they want to be God in their life (themselves or God). It is a free choice. This choice is core to our humanity. To remove the choice would 1) rob us of our humanity; and 2) blind us to what we really want for our life. The freedom to choose reveals what we really want. When the freedom has gone so has the ability to know what we really want.

When we appear before God in his glory our chance to *freely* acknowledge him as Sovereign over the entire universe including our lives will have gone. Every person will acknowledge God as God even if they don't want to – Romans 14:11. People will regret their choice to live without God as God, Matthew 13v42. This is part of the reason why mission is of ultimate importance.

*"Do you know how the workers in Jesus' time would separate the wheat from the Tares? As the wheat ripens and the grain swells, the head would become very heavy and under its weight the head would bow. The Tares – they stand straight and upright. So the workers would go through the field, first removing all the plants that stand proud without the heavy grain and they would leave all those plants whose head was bowed... And then, and then they would bring the harvest home".*