

Study Guide

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2. The Inevitable End of Evil TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO

In response to a question by an expert in the Law of Moses as to how one could get eternal life, Jesus redirected the lawyer to the obey the commandment of “loving God and our neighbour.” The lawyer in response asks Jesus to define the word ‘neighbour.’ Jesus then tells the parable from which the well-known phrase “Good Samaritan” originated from.

I love the parables where Jesus explains its meaning to His disciples. There is no room for guessing and interpretation. This week’s parable known as the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares is one of them. Tares are a kind of weed that is hard to distinguish from wheat.

One day Jesus sat in a boat and addressed a large crowd. He was in a parable mode and told over half a dozen parables that day. Let me read this one that is found in Matthew 13 verse 24 to 30.

Jesus told them another parable: *“The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man sowed good seed in his field. One night, when everyone was asleep, an enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went away. When the plants grew and the heads of grain began to form, then the tares showed up. The man’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, it was good seed you sowed in your field; where did the tares come from?’ ‘It was some enemy who did this,’ he answered.*

“Do you want us to go and pull up the tares?” the servants asked him. ‘No,’ he answered, ‘because as you pull out the tares, you might pull up some of the wheat along with them. Let the wheat and the tares both grow together until harvest. Then I will tell the harvest workers to pull up the tares first, tie them in bundles and burn them, and then to gather in the wheat and put it in my barn.” (Matt 13:24-30)

The meaning of this parable baffled some of Jesus’s disciples and when Jesus’ was alone with them, they asked Him to explain its meaning. Let’s read Jesus’ explanation found in Matt 13:37-42)

Jesus answered, *“The man who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world; the good seed is the people who belong to the Kingdom; the tares are the people who belong to the Evil One; and the enemy who sowed the tares is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvest workers are angels. Just as the tares are gathered up and burned in the fire, so the same thing will happen at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels to gather up out of his Kingdom all those who cause people to sin and all others who do evil things, and they will throw them into the fiery furnace, where they will cry and gnash their teeth.” (Matt 13:34-42)*

What are some learnings we can get from this parable?

Firstly, we learn that people who do evil things exist due to the sly activity of Satan who by planting them is disrupting God’s good plan of bringing His Kingdom on earth by planting His own people in the world.

So, while the Devil has succeeded in planting his agents, we find God unwilling to allow His servants to retaliate

and destroy these evil ones from the face of the earth.

God's response is not because He lacks the power to do so. Nor is it because He is condoning this Devil orchestrated evil. It actually is His grace and concern for His people that makes Him stay His judgement.

Just like the wheat and the tares were not very distinguishable in the days Jesus told this parable, even today it is not easy to easily recognize wolves dressed in sheep's clothing that cross our paths at work or home or even at church.

Jesus, without any condemnation, mentions that while everyone was asleep the Devil quietly does his work and disappears. The lesson for us children of God is to remain alert to the fact that the Devil is a real entity and could be masquerading as one of our friends, and like the roots of tares get intertwined with our lives. When Jesus told us that we are salt and light of the world, His desire for us is to let His light shine through us and protect us from the evil designs of the devil.

Since good and evil are intertwined, trying to separate good from evil may result in a state in which things could get worse than what we are seeking to correct.

But, this lack of action is not the end. Jesus clearly says that there will be a day of judgement when an absolute separation between good and bad will happen. Evil and Satan will meet their well-deserved end.

But, in the meanwhile, this parable helps us understand why evil and evil persons remain active in this world and provides us one more reason to answer the complaint that many in the Bible including Jeremiah had when he questioned God, "*Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all who are treacherous thrive?*" (Jeremiah 12:1b)

May God give us His patience and His protection as we deal with the Devil's designates and delegates. Amen

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