The Wheat, The Tares, And Fellowship In The Local Church

Tony Mauck · Matthew 13:24–43

INTRODUCTION

- Matthew 13 is all about parables that Jesus taught.
- Because it's about listening. It's about how you listen.

1 Son of Man Is the Sower of the Good Seed

Matthew 13:37; Matthew 3:11–12

- Jesus says the Son of Man is the sower of the good seed. This is a messianic title.
- What proceeds from God is good, and we desperately need it.
- It represents food. It represents nourishment in their lives. This is a good thing.

2 Wheat or Tares: No Third Category

Psalm 44; Jeremiah 17:10

- Everything that is not the result of the good seed. What is it? Tares.
- There is no third category presented in this parable. There's not a category called sickly wheat.
- It's wheat or tares, and I would suggest to you that we're in one of those two categories. And we need to think seriously about that.

3 Is He Talking About the Local Church?

Matthew 13:38; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Thessalonians 3

- In verse 38, the field is identified as the world rather than the church.
- Perhaps the main point of this parable is that's not the way this kingdom's going to work.
- God's kingdom does bring division, and that division is final, but the ultimate and final outworking of that is yet future.
- Jesus is not forbidding discipline in the local church by this parable.

4 Tares in the Local Church; God's Knowledge Is Unlimited

1 Timothy 5:24; 1 Timothy 3:6; Luke 12

- Some, even in the local church, will inevitably be tares and not wheat.
- The sins of some men are quite evident going before them to judgment. For others, their sins follow after.
- Ultimately all impurities will be purged. Whether we are able to decipher them all or not.
- But God's knowledge is unlimited. He knows the hearts of every person, and he will ultimately deal with those who are tares.

5 Fellowship Issues in a Local Church

1 Corinthians 5

- We can only make judgments on the basis of what we know and what is evident.
- It's entirely possible because we do not know hearts that there will be in the fellowship of local churches. Those who are not in union with Christ.
- It is not our place to accept their baptism. Ultimately, it is the Lord's place to accept their baptism because he knows their heart.
- Our responsibility goes to what we can know. And know for sure.
- If you turn the other way, are you helping these people?

6 Local Church Membership Alone Decides No One's Destiny

- Local church membership alone decides no one's destiny.
- The local church is not the arbiter of people's salvation.
- We need to care about people's souls and not look the other way when sin is involved.
- It'll be each individual person standing before God.

THE CHALLENGE

Don't just take comfort in the fact that you're numbered among the redeemed. How are you living? It's wheat or tares.

MY NOTES