

The New Testament Church
The Righteous Will Shine #1 – “Our Character Is What Will Shine”
September 1, 2024 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I The Purpose of Kingdom Parables

- A. The meaning of Parables – Matthew 13:10-17
 - 1. An allegory, a picture of Biblical truth – like seeds
 - 2. A Kingdom parable means the Word of truth extends beyond our lives – His rule
- B. Why Parables? (Mt. 13:11-17; 34-36)
 - 1. The hidden truths of the Kingdom – *must desire (hunger) to receive them*
 - 2. Isaiah 6:8-13 – preaching to *expose the true condition of the heart*
 - 3. The Church is the womb of the Kingdom (comes with birth pangs)
 - a. We are to preach the gospel of the kingdom – not the gospel of the church
 - b. A church embraces the goal of the Kingdom - a multi-generational vision

II Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43 – Parable of the Wheat and the Tares – the Righteous will Shine!

- A. A sower (Jesus) went forth to sow good seed – previous parable on soil, now on seed
- B. The symbols of the parable
 - 1. The **field** is the world – the cultures – where the Kingdom is planted
 - a. Note that the gospel of the Kingdom is planted in the soil of the culture
 - b. In this case, however, all cultures have mixture, but good seed will grow
 - 2. The **seed** are the righteous – believers – sent forth into all culture of the world
 - a. We are the seed! But *it is our character (fruit) that is planted*, our “righteousness”
 - b. Christianity is unique, the image of Christ outlasts all other methods of change
 - 3. The **tares** are the sons of the wicked one – planted “*while men slept*” (unaware)
 - a. Wherever wheat comes up, tares come up with it! (we don’t have to plant these)
 - b. “*Didn’t you put good seed into the culture?*” (yes, we have to plant the good ones)
 - 4. The **enemy** who sows these wicked ones is the devil – he plants people as well...
 - a. “*Shall we pull out the tares?*” (Should we remove the people? – No, damage wheat)
 - b. In our day we will be faced with the challenge of loving our enemy (outlast them)
 - 5. The **final harvest** is the end of the age (when Christ shall come), but this is progressive
 - 6. The **reapers** are the angels (sent forth by Christ at the end of the age)
 - a. “*...first gather the tares... harvesting them for judgment*” (unrighteous taken first)
 - b. “**Then** the righteous will shine as the sun!” (righteous – right living, character)
 - 1. Mt. 5:13-16 – salt (service), and light (examples) – “see our good works”
 - 2. Phil. 2:12-16 – character formed, blameless, harmless, holding fast word of life
 - 3. Ps. 119:105 – His word is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path
 - 4. Proverbs 4:18 – the path of the righteous is a light, greater and greater...
- C. These truths are for us today...
 - 1. The gospel of the Kingdom plants believers strategically – embrace your **location!**
 - 2. Wherever believers’ **character** influences, **opposition** will arise – tempting us to react
 - 3. We are **not to focus** on evil people but let *the character of Christ form within us (preparing to serve) so we outlast (transcend) politics, laws, wars and economic collapses*
 - 4. God **progressively removes the tares’ influence** as the wheat grows (and shines)
 - 5. **Evil always defeats itself** (overplays its cards, causing people to wake up)
 - 6. We realize that the **timing** of God removes the tares first, so the righteous can **shine!**