

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

James 1:1-12

THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND THE WEEDS

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Main Thought: In the parable of the wheat and weeds, followers of Christ are encouraged to keep growing and maturing in their faith and trust God to deal with evil at the final judgment.

1. THE _____ OF THE PARABLE. (vv 24-30)
 - 1) This is a _____ about the kingdom of God
 - 2) A man _____ good wheat seed in his field.
 - 3) At night an _____ sows weeds in the same field.
 - 4) After the seeds have grown the servants notice the _____.
 - 5) The servants want to pull up the weeds but are told not to because the _____ would be pulled up too.
 - 6) The wheat and weeds will be _____ at the harvest when the weeds will be _____.

2. THE _____ OF THE PARABLE. (vv 36-43)
 - 1) The sower is the "_____."
 - 2) The field is the _____.
 - 3) The good seed are the _____ of the kingdom.
 - 4) The weeds are the sons of the _____ one.
 - 5) The evil one is the _____.
 - 6) The harvest is the end of the _____.
 - 7) The harvesters are _____.
 - 8) The Son of Man will _____ and _____ all evil.
 - 9) The righteous will _____ forever in the Kingdom of God.

3. THE _____ OF THE PARABLE.
 - 1) Until the final judgment, good and evil will _____ together in the world.
 - 2) God is drawing people to Jesus; the devil is trying to keep people from _____ in Jesus.
 - 3) Believers are to grow and mature in _____.
 - 4) Believers are to trust God to deal with evil at the _____.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

2. The kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God refer to the same thing. What is the kingdom of God? What is the mystery of the kingdom of heaven which has been revealed to the disciples? (See Matt. 13:11)

3. Review: What did the parable of the sower and the soils reveal to us about the kingdom of God? (Matt. 13:1-23)

4. Who are the characters and what is the story line of the parable of the wheat and the weeds? (Matt. 13:24-30)

5. Why would it be difficult to distinguish between the wheat and the weeds early on?

6. Why didn't the farmer want his servants to pull out the weeds before harvest time?

7. What interpretation did Jesus give to the parable? (Matt. 13:36-43)

1) Who is the "Son of Man"? What is significant about that title? (See Daniel 7:13-14; John 1:1, 14; 1 Jn. 4:2)

2) What does the field represent?

3) Who does the good seed represent?

4) Who do the weeds represent?

5) Who does the enemy represent?

6) When is the harvest and who are the harvesters?

7) What happens to the weeds at the end of the age?

8) What happens to the righteous at the end of the age?

8. What is unique about God's field as it pertains to wheat and weeds? (Hint: Can weeds become wheat? If so, how?)

9. What attitude should followers of Christ have toward those who are doing evil according to this parable? What attitude should we not have?

10. What gives you hope and encouragement in this parable?