



## **FIRST WEDNESDAY: Parable of the Wheat and Tares**

November 1, 2023 | Pastor Kirk Walters

Mount Paran North

<sup>24</sup> Here is another story Jesus told: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. <sup>26</sup> When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew. <sup>27</sup> "The farmer's workers went to him and said, 'Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?' <sup>28</sup> "An enemy has done this!' the farmer exclaimed. "'Should we pull out the weeds?' they asked. <sup>29</sup> "'No,' he replied, 'you'll uproot the wheat if you do. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.'"

### **Matthew 13:24-30 NLT**

<sup>36</sup> Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, "Please explain to us the story of the weeds in the field." <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, "The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed. <sup>38</sup> The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. <sup>39</sup> The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels. <sup>40</sup> "Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. <sup>42</sup> And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!"

### **Matthew 13:36-43 NLT**

- The Farmer: Son of Man
- The Field: World
- Good Seed (Wheat): People of God
- Weeds: Servants of the Devil (Evil One)

## Questions About Evil

### 1. Did God Create Evil?

Here is another story Jesus told: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field."

**Matthew 13:24 NLT**

Jesus replied, "The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed."

**Matthew 13:37 NLT**

- All that God created was good!

Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

**Genesis 1:31a NLT**

### 2. Why Does Evil Exist?

But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. **Matthew 13:25 NLT**

The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels. **Matthew 13:39 NLT**

- God created the possibility of evil, but people actualized the potential -  
*Lee Strobel*
- Why? Because God wants people who choose to love Him in return for His love.

### 3. Why Does God Allow Evil to Continue?

<sup>26</sup> When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew. <sup>27</sup> “The farmer’s workers went to him and said, ‘Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?’ <sup>28</sup> “‘An enemy has done this!’ the farmer exclaimed. “‘Should we pull out the weeds?’ they asked. <sup>29</sup> “‘No,’ he replied, ‘you’ll uproot the wheat if you do.’”

**Matthew 13:26-29 NLT**

“Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!”

**Matthew 13:43 NLT**

- Eliminating evil now would result in damaging the children of God, which is unacceptable to Him.

### 4. When Will Evil End?

“Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.”

**Matthew 13:30 NLT**

<sup>39</sup> The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels. <sup>40</sup> “Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. <sup>42</sup> And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

**Matthew 13:39-42 NLT**

- At the End of the Age.

### **How Does This Apply to My life?**

1. Evil exists because God has allowed it.
2. Evil separates true servants of God from counterfeits.
3. It's hard to distinguish between the two sometimes.
4. God is in control!
5. God's justice will prevail.