

“COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANTY”

THE MARK OF THE KINGDOM: AUTHENTICITY

MATTHEW 13:24 - 30 & 36 - 43 (THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS)

SERIES: JESUS KINGDOM PARABLES ~ STORIES THAT CHANGED THE WORLD (7)

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REV. PAUL WITTER

Introduction

Today we take a look at the final Kingdom Parable that is found in Matthew chapter 13. Jesus other parables are about Kingdom life and the consummation (fulfillment) of the Kingdom.

The Kingdom of God (Heaven in Matthew) is the **realm** of the **unquenched** Spirit, where he **operates unhindered**; it is where the **rule and reign** of God is operating.

Kingdom parables in Matthew 13:

- The Kingdom message ~ *Parable of the Sower*:
the RESPONSE to the planted Word of God
- Kingdom multiplication ~ *Parables of the mustard seed & yeast*
the GROWTH of the Kingdom
- Kingdom motivation ~ *Parables of the hidden treasure & pearl*
NEW VALUES of the Kingdom
- Kingdom mandate ~ *Parable of the dragnet*
the POWER of the Gospel & our response
- Kingdom marks ~ *Parable of the weeds*
The mark of AUTHENTICITY

1. Kingdom Concerns

The storyline explained (v36-43)

The man is the “Son of Man” – Jesus

The field is the world – where the Kingdom of God is operating

The good seed is God’s people (not the word as in the Parable of the Sower)

The bad seed are the children of the Devil

The enemy is the Devil

The harvesters & the harvest are the angels and the final judgement

- **Satan's**: primarily to destroy the Kingdom and work of Christ
- **Satan's**
 - steals seed -- the Parable of the Sower
 - primarily an imitator - counterfeits
 - * plants false
 - * encourages false
 - * introduces false
- **Satan's** (**cunning**)
 - workers asleep (v25)
- **Satan's**
 - Satan's work will not go unchecked (v40-42)

2. Kingdom contrasts: the marks of authenticity

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Jonathan Edwards: "Sinners in the hands of an angry God"
 "In due time their foot shall slip" – Deuteronomy 32:35

3. Kingdom convictions

Why is the parable so important? A call to

- **R..... your own life**
2 Corinthians 13:5 2 Peter 1:10
- **R..... on Christ**
1 Corinthians 2:2
- **R..... your spiritual growth**
- **R..... Satanic counterfeits**
 - Counterfeit doctrines – 1 Timothy 4:1
 - Counterfeit worship
 - Counterfeit growth

4. Kingdom Counterfeits

- **Counterfeit** (2 Corinthians 11:26)
- **Counterfeit** (Galatians 1:6-9)
- **Counterfeit** (Romans 10:1-3)
- **Counterfeit** (Revelation 2:9)
- **Counterfeit** (2 Thessalonians 2:1-10)

5. Kingdom Corrections:

1. **Paul's anticipation:** you will always face counterfeits
Ephesians 6:12
Acts 20:28-30a
2. **Paul's exhortation:** take your stand!
Ephesians 6:10,11. 13-14a
3. **Paul's evaluation:** God will continue His work in you!
Philippians 1:6
Why does the Lord allow weeds to grow? Truth has never been hammered out in ivory towers ... but forged in the heat of the battle!
4. **Paul's exaltation:** final victory
Ephesians 3:16-20

Conclusion

Ephesians 2:10

Blessed assurance ...!

Group discussion & reflection

1. How would you describe an authentic Christian?
2. What counterfeits are most real or evident to you today, and which ones would you consider most dangerous?
3. What motivated Jesus to tell this parable to his disciples?
4. Why do you think Jesus instructs us to leave the 'weeds'? What does history teach us?
5. Should Christians be uncritical of false doctrine and counterfeit Christianity? What does the rest of Scripture say? Can you think of some verses?
6. When should a church apply church discipline?
7. What counterfeit/hypocrisy do you need to deal with in your own life?
8. What one take home principle do you need to apply personally?