

Parable---The Sower and the Weeds

The Parable of the Sower is told in Matthew 13.1-17 and explained in verses 18-23. The Weeds Parable, the same chapter, is told in verses 24-30 and explained in verses 37-42. The essence of both kingdom parables has everything to do with the heart of men and women. Christ Jesus, the Son of Man, is the farmer and the one who sows the good seed about the Kingdom of God. The good and honest heart chooses to receive the message of Christ Jesus, understand the message, and works to produce a life-yielding crop that yields much more than what was sown. A man, who wrote much of our NT, had a horrible background of envy, jealousy, and even murder. He describes how this seed of the kingdom worked in changing his heart and life when he said, after many years of learning the message of the kingdom, "It is no longer I who lives but Christ Jesus who lives in me."

Sadly, the response by all men and women to the sown seed is not the same. Another heart hears the message, does not seek to understand it, and as a consequence the evil one (the devil) snatches away that sown seed from the heart. This heart was never fully committed. Another heart is very excited to hear the "good news" about this kingdom but trouble and fear and persecution from a world in conflict with the Word prompt this heart to say "what's the use?" Still, another heart receives the seed but becomes concerned with wealth and riches and worries about how it can be acquired. The lure of temporal pleasure chokes the heart from being steadfast as once intended and the view of eternal riches is now lost in the cloud of self-indulgence. As the good seed dies in these hearts, weeds enter in. Just like our gardens, as long as good seed grows and is nurtured and cultivated, we reap what was sown. However, weeds grow in hearts unwilling to receive and maintain what the farmer sowed. Instead, the evil one (the devil) sows and produces a crop of weeds that only awaits burning in a fiery furnace. "The Son of Man will send out his angels soon and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil."---- "Purer in heart O God, help me to be, may I devote my life, wholly to Thee.." Sj-2/15