

Living as Wheat Among Weeds – Frustrations and Expectations

- Last wk J told prbl Sower/Seed. Remem, in prbl: God like farmer, who goes field, sows seed (Gos). As sowing seed, some lands on footpath, rocks, weeds, fertile soil – all diff ways ppl receive Wrd God. Point: God hard at work, spreading Gos, all over place, bec wants his pwrfl seed to produce crop of strong Xian faith in hrts of his ppl. That's prbl Sower/Seed.
- As soon as J finished telling that prbl, told another one – prbl Wt/Wds (today). This too prbl re farming & sowing seed; but this one diff. Instead diff types soil, here diff types seed. Farmer sows good seed in field; but enemy comes, sows bad seed in field. So wt/wds grow up tog, right next each other. This frustrtng to farmer, bec wanted field of good wt, but now polluted. And frustrtng to servants, bec they want pull wds up, but farmer says no, just let grow tog, deal w/wds later. So in this story, everyone frustrtd that wds contaminated wt field.
- Just like last wk, when J explaind meaning of prbl Sower/Seed – does same here. Discs say: **vs. 36b-39**. So what we make of this; what this prbl mean for us? Well, J sowed good seed when created perf wrld. Grdn Eden perf place: no sin, evil, weeds. But Dvl (enmy/God) came, tempted A&E sin. "Here, enjoy forbdn fruit; you'll be like God." E ate; gave A; he ate. And now: sin in world, wds in field; now, instead of there just being ppl/kngdm, there's also ppl/evil one; now, bels must live in this wrld as WAW, side/side with, and at odds with, unbels (J calls wds).
- Intrstng: did little resrch on wds J talkng re here. Actly talkng re specfc kind wd: called darnel; (KJV, tares). This darnel wd looks so much like pure wt: hard tell diff btw 2. At harv time, only diff can see: head/wt slightly larger & lighter in color than head/darnel (little smaller/darker). Other than that, look lot alike! Yet very diff. This darnel carries poisons fungus – if eat, makes very sick; and if harvstd/ground tog w/wt, then flour ruined. On top that, roots of this poisons darnel wd wrap around roots of other plants; get entangled tog – which why farmer in prbl says don't pull up wds, or going ruin wt.
- So what this means for us (one main points/prbl): living in this wrld/field as WAW, is going be very frustrtng! Not only is it frustrtng we have all these weeds all around us, entangled among us, but also frustrtng that God doesn't seem be doing anything re it! Think what's going on in this field live in: child abuse, child abductn, prostitutn, human trafckng, drug trafckng, violent crime, murder, rape, riots, theft, vandlsm, abortn, terrism, racism, hatred for fellow mankind, bitter cruelty toward fellow humans – list could go on/on. Pt talked re this 2k yrs ago; 1st Les, talked re **"what pagans choose to do – living in debchry, lust, drnknnss, orgies, carousng and detstbl idoltry. They are surprsd that you do not join them in their reckless, wild livng, and they heap abuse on you" (1 Pt 4:3-4)**. These ppl, and sins they comt, have frstrtd world. And equly frustrtng are effects/sin we see all around us: ppl living in povrty, despair, hoplsns. Brokn hearts/lives; guilty conscncs. Ppl livng in terror, helpless defend selves vs atrocities comtd vs them. Ppl suffrng from deprssn, loneliness, cancer. And then there's Covid-19! This world spinng out/control. All these sins, & effects/sin: all wds, that Stn's sown in wrld. And it's frustrtng, bec 1) get entngld in lives, and 2) God doesn't seem be doing anything re it! And 3) sometimes when look in mirror, what we see looks more like wd than wt. Easy look around, see evil. But, sober dose reality when you look inside, see evil & realize not just bad out there; bad in here, too. And that may be the most frustrtng thing of all – we just want be wt & live among wt. But just like darnel, sometimes it's hard tell diff btw us/wds.
- And so we have all these frustrtns as Xians, living as WAW. But also have certain expecttns, certain things we can look forward to in future, things we know'll hapn bec God says they'll happen. See: in this prbl, even though farmer doesn't pull up wds right away, doesn't mean he's okay w/evil, or doesn't care what's hapng in field. No, farmer is patient, bec knows harvest coming. **Vs. 30**.
- That's harvest, J-Day, which we can expect hap, bec J said would. And this isn't only time J talks re J-Day. In Mt 24: **"All the ppls of the earth will mourn when they see the Son/Man coming on the clouds of hvn, w/pwr & great glry. And he will send his angels w/ a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the 4 winds" (30-31)**. And in Mt 25, re: seprtng sheep/goats, bels/unbels,

sending to hvn/hell. Actly, little later in Mt 13 (this same ch), J tells another prbl re a fishing net that's let down into water, catches all kinds of fish, good/bad. Good in baskets; bad thrown away – another picture of exact same thing J teaching here – that, on Last Day, J-Day, at end/wrld, J will seprt all ppl into 2 grps: bels/unbels, wheat/weeds, sheep/goats, good fish/bad (however want say). And on that day, God'll deal w/wds!! Like this: vs. 40-42. Talking re hell; being very serious! Any time J pulls out phrase wpng/gnshng, being very serious – re place he's going throw wds he pulls out his field.

- But for us who love J, trust in J as Sav, these words re coming harvest not meant to terrify us; meant to reassure us – bec for as serious as J is re hell, also just as serious re hvn! Vs. 43a. And you are the rghts – not bec any inherent rghtsns in you – goodness no! – but bec thru Xp, God calls you rghts. XpJ has transferd the fullnss his rghtsns onto you, and has compltly removed from you the guilt your sin (sin born with, sins comtd in life, even will comt in future). He's canceld that guilt for you by paying punshmnt himself, on cross – your sins, covered there – that's what makes you rghts. So, on Last Day, vs. 43 (you, thru faith in Xp) – just picturesque way saying you will enjoy eternal life w/J in hvn. That's prom God makes to you & to all bels in J – that's rock-solid guarantee that you can look forward to w/eager expcttn.
- So, F&E – that's what it's like, living as WAW. Paul said same thing Rom 8: **“The creatn waits in eager expcttn for the children/God be reveald. For the creatn was subjctd to frustrtn” (19-20).** F&E. In this prbl J teaching us that this wrld/field is mixture of good/evil, bels/unbels, wt/wds; and that sin constantly surrounds us. And while this may be incredibly frustrtng for us as Xians, God says: be patient; I'll take care of it; I'm not unaware of what's hapng in my wrld, and I'm not okay w/it. But in my own time, I will bring divine justice, and I will bring you to live in new field, of pure wt, that will never be contamtd by wds. As for you, in meantime, (Ps 27), **“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord” (14).** God, help us to do just that.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ ²⁸ “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ ²⁹ “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. ⁴⁰ “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

