Sermon Notes: Wheat and Weeds

Matthew 13:24–30

# Introduction: Setting the Scene

* • Jesus shared this parable in Galilee during a time of growing opposition.
* • Many Jews expected the Messiah to instantly purge evil.
* • Jesus introduces a mystery: the Kingdom allows good and evil to coexist for now.

# Imagery: Farming & Sabotage

* • Farming was familiar to Jesus' audience.
* • Sabotaging crops by planting weeds was known and illegal under Roman law.
* • The enemy's night-time act is realistic and malicious.

# Parable Summary

* • The Son of Man (Jesus) sows good seed (believers).
* • The devil sows weeds (false believers) while men sleep.
* • Wheat and tares grow together; early removal risks harm.
* • Separation will come at harvest—the time of judgment.

# Key Word Studies

* • Tares (ζιζάνια): Darnel, toxic look-alike wheat, symbolizing false believers.
* • Enemy (ἐχθρός): The devil, active and intentional.
* • Harvest (θερισμός): Symbol of final judgment.
* • Sons of the Kingdom (υἱοὶ τῆς βασιλείας): True believers, born again.

# Exposition & Application

* • We live in a mixed field: both good and evil are present.
* • The enemy's work is subtle—false believers look real for a time.
* • Jesus says, 'An enemy has done this'—God is not the author of evil.
* • Don't uproot others prematurely—our judgment is limited.
* • Jesus calls for patience—His judgment will come at harvest.
* • Encouragement: The wheat will be gathered into His barn.

# Practical Application

* • Be a faithful witness in a fallen world.
* • Avoid a judgmental spirit—leave final judgment to God.
* • Live in hope and holiness, knowing harvest is coming.
* • Support each other as wheat among weeds—build up the church.
* • Trust in God's timing—He knows when the harvest will be.

# Closing Challenge

* • Are you truly wheat or only appearing to be?
* • Repent and believe while there is time.
* • Encourage others, endure trials, and grow strong until harvest day.
* • Take heart—God sees, knows, and will bring justice.