

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD NOW

MATTHEW 13: 24-30

Introduction:

This parable will cause any farmer to cringe. What could be worse? He has carefully prepared his soil, sowed the best seed that money can buy, and watches with anticipation as the seed begins to sprout through the soil. But then it becomes obvious that something tragic is wrong. As the good seed springs up through the soil, weeds begin to spring up everywhere. It is obvious that some enemy has slipped into his field at night and sowed his field down with the seed of tares or weeds.

Some of the hired hands want to get into the field and pull up the weeds before they completely crowd out the life of the good seed. But the farmer knows that this will do more harm than good. It will root up much of the good as well as the bad. He makes the decision to allow the two to grow side by side until harvest time, and then he will make the separation.

This familiar story is really about living in the kingdom of God in this present world. Every son of the kingdom needs to understand the simple truths that Jesus set forth about life in the kingdom today. If you can understand this parable, many of the questions about kingdom life will be cleared up.

I. WE ENJOY A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE KING IN THIS PRESENT WORLD.

1. We are sons of the kingdom now.
2. The Son of Man has placed in the world.

II. WE EXPERIENCE OPPOSITION TO OUR KINGDOM LIFE IN THIS PRESENT WORLD.

1. We experience opposition from Satan.
2. We experience opposition from the sons of the evil one.

III. WE LIVE IN ANTICIPATION OF THE CULMINATION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

1. The King will make a separation.
2. The King will judge the opposition.
3. The King will honor the sons of the Kingdom.

So our life in the kingdom is lived out in a hostile world, but it is all preparation for the consummation of the kingdom of God.