

V24 THIS PARABLE ALSO USES THE FIGURE OF A FARMER SOWING SEED IN HIS FIELD BUT HERE THE EMPHASIS IS NOT ON WHAT HAPPENS TO THE GOOD SEED BUT RATHER WHAT HAPPENS TO THE BAD SEED THAT HIS ENEMY CAME AND SOWED ALONG SIDE THE GOOD SEED IDENTIFIED AS WHEAT

V25 WHILE THE FARMER AND HIS MEN WERE SLEEPING HIS ENEMY SOWS TARES AMONG THE WHEAT AND THEN GOES AWAY THE TARES CLOSELY RESEMBLE THE WHEAT AND IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH UNTIL THE WHEAT RIPENS

V26-27 BUT WHEN THE WHEAT SPROUTED AND BORE GRAIN THEN THE TARES BECAME EVIDENT ALSO AND WHEN THEY SAW SO MANY TARES AMONG THE WHEAT THE SLAVES OF THE LANDOWNER ASKED HIM HOW THIS COULD HAVE HAPPENED

V28-29 AN ENEMY HAS DONE THIS THE SLAVES SAID TO HIM DO YOU WANT US TO GO AND GATHER THEM UP BUT HE SAID NO FOR WHILE YOU ARE GATHERING UP THE TARES YOU MAY UP ROOT THE WHEAT WITH THEM HE KNEW THAT MORE DAMAGE COULD BE DONE TO THE GOOD CROP BY PULLING OUT THE TARES AT THAT TIME THEN BY LEAVING THEM ALONE

V30 ALLOW BOTH TO GROW TOGETHER UNTIL THE HARVEST AND IN THE TIME OF THE HARVEST I WILL SAY TO THE REAPERS FIRST GATHER UP THE TARES AND BIND THEM IN BUNDLES TO BURN THEM UP THEN GATHER THE WHEAT INTO MY BARN WHERE IT WOULD BE STORED AND PROTECTED FOR FUTURE USE

JESUS EXPLAINS THE PARABLE TO HIS DISCIPLES IN MATT 13:36-43 EVEN THOUGH THEY DID NO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE PARABLE THE FACT THAT THEY CALLED IT THE PARABLE OF THE TARES SHOWS THAT THEY REALIZED THAT THE EMPHASIS WAS ON THE TARE RATHER THAN THE WHEAT

THE PARABLE WAS OBVIOUSLY ABOUT JUDGMENT AND THE TARES REPRESENTED UN BELIEVERS THE ONE WHO SOWED THE GOOD SEED IS THE SON OF MAN AND THE FIELD IS THE WORLD THE DISCIPLES KNEW THAT THE SON OF MAN REFERRED TO JESUS FOCUSING ON HIS HUMANITY

THE FIELD IS THE WORLD THIS IS A PICTURE OF THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD NOT OF THE WORLD IN THE CHURCH THE GOOD SEED REPRESENTS THE SONS OF THE KINGDOM AND THE TARES ARE THE SONS OF THE EVIL ONE WHO IS SATAN

THE ENEMY WHO SOWED THEM IS THE DEVIL THE HARVEST IS THE END OF THE AGE AND THE REAPERS ARE ANGELS THIS IS NOT THE AGE OF GOD'S JUDGMENT THE LORD HIMSELF DID NOT LIFT A FINGER AGAINST HIS ENEMIES HE ASKED FOR THEIR FORGIVENESS

THE TIME BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND COMING IS THE GRACE AGE JESUS CAME TO SAVE NOT TO EXECUTE JUDGMENT BUT WHEN HE RETURNS IT WILL BE TO EXECUTE JUDGMENT

IN THE PRESENT AGE BELIEVERS ARE NOT GOD'S INSTRUMENTS OF JUDGMENT AND DESTRUCTION BUT OF TRUTH AND GRACE WE ARE TO HAVE HEARTS OF COMPASSION FOR UNBELIEVERS NOT CONDEMNATION

THE CHURCH IS CALLED TO PREACH AND TEACH AGAINST SIN AND ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS BUT IN DOING THAT ITS PURPOSE IS NOT TO JUDGE BUT TO WIN SOULS NOT TO PUNISH BUT TO CONVERT SONS OF THE EVIL ONE INTO SONS OF THE KINGDOM

THE LORD MAKES CLEAR THAT THE SEPARATION OF THE WHEAT AND THE TARES OF THE SONS OF THE KINGDOM AND THE SONS OF THE EVIL ONE WOULD BE AT THE END OF THE AGE

WE ARE TO PROVE OURSELVES BLAMELESS AND INNOCENT CHILDREN OF GOD ABOVE REPROACH IN THE MIDST OF A CROOKED AND PERVERSE GENERATION AMONG WHO WE WILL APPEAR AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD PHILIP 2:15