

Please Note:

Westwood Small Groups are beginning a two-week series this week entitled Discover Your Purpose.
For teaching and discussion guides, please visit WestwoodGroups.com. Therefore, today's notes
on the sermon include on the outline.

Everybody Goes to a Better Place

Series: Spiritual Bigfoots: Disproving the Myths

July 11, 2010

Scripture: 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 root up 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.' "

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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 sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons 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 fiery 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. He who has ears, let him hear.

Outline

Situation Summary: For a season, God is allowing the righteous and the unrighteous to live together. But there will be a day that this comes to a conclusion.

Life changing lessons:

1. The situation that Jesus describes is going on right now.
2. Heaven and hell are real places and literal states of existence.
3. From God's perspective all people aren't in the same spiritual condition.
4. When the day of harvest comes, eternal destinies will be sealed permanently.

Description of words sometimes used for "hell"

- a. Sheol is used 65 times in the Old Testament. It is not hell, but "the grave, the world of the dead."
- b. Hades is a New Testament term with some of the meaning of Sheol, but it describes a place where the unrighteous go after death.
- c. Hell is a permanent place of torment and suffering for eternity. Once someone has passed away, there is nothing we can do to help them earn heaven. Purgatory is not a Biblical belief. In fact, we can't even earn heaven in this life ourselves. It is God's grace through the cross, not what we do to earn it.

Scriptures cited:

Romans 9:22-24

Psalm 88:3

Matthew 25:33