

Harvest

July 8, 2026

Matthew 13:24-43

No. 6

We have come to the end of the season with our "Lessons From The Farm."

The last time we were together, we noted what takes place right before the harvest,- waiting.

Waiting is crucial for the farmer and for the believer because it turns our eyes toward God.

We now come to the time of the season that everything has been leading up to.

So far:

- Plowing
- Sowing seed
- Pruning
- Waiting

The day has finally arrived; the day of The Harvest.

What comes to mind when you hear the word "harvest?"

- Overflowing fields
- Baskets of food
- Rejoicing
- Thankfulness
- Fulfillment of all the time spent

Here in New England, our autumns are decorated with colorful trees and farms giving off their treasures in all kinds of colorful fruits and vegetables.

But these treasures did not come from a life of indifference or apathy. Rather,

They are the fruit of diligence.

Jesus told a story about this very thing.

Mt 13:24 *The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field.*

v.25 *"But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away.*

v.26 *"But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also.*

v.27 *"The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'*

"tares" darnel, false grain

A degenerated wheat, not fit for humans but fed to chickens.

It looks just like wheat until it is fully grown/ matured.



- v.28** *"And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves *said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?'*
- v.29** *"But he *said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them.*
- v.30** *'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; but gather the wheat into my barn."*

This is what the day was like Jesus lived in and it is so much like our day today as well.

This story contains a universal principle that prepares the hearers for the end of the world.

Okay,

So Jesus tells this story about the end of the world using the harvest. Sometimes, when Jesus spoke, people couldn't find the meaning in His story. That's because, their hearts were hard and they really didn't want the truth.

He would often take His disciples aside and explain the story so others, the hard-hearted would not understand it.

He is going to mention the players in the story:

- Jesus, Himself
- True believers
- Non or false believers
- Satan
- Angels

The field is the earth.

If you think about it, this list of personalities are eternal, they are going to live forever. Nothing else in this earth will.

The explanation:

v.37 *And He said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man,*

"good seed" true believers

Ja 1:18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

v.38 *and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one;*

"tares" non or false believers

We will see that Satan has his own following.

Question"

When were these "tares" sown?

v.25 *... while his men were sleeping*

That's why Paul said; in

I Thess 5:6 *let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.*
So we have planted in the church, false Christians. People who look
and sound like believers, but they are not.

And who planted them?

v.39 *and the enemy who sowed them is the devil,*
"the devil"

- Accuser – Rev 12:10
- Adversary – I Pe 5:8
- Serpent of Old – Rev 12:9
- Tempter – Mt 4:5
- Murderer – Jn 8:44
- Deceiver – Rev 12:9
- Enemy – Mt 13:39

Perhaps this is where we are today in human history.

We are God's laborers in the field; the wheat that is growing to feed
the world.

But a false wheat has been planted. It's intention is to choke the
good wheat. The devil, himself has done this.

The next event is going to be the harvest.

and the harvest is the end of the age;

"end of the age" time of growing has been fulfilled

Every field of crops must go through a growing and maturing process.

It cannot be cut short.

You have seen food that has not reached maturity:

- grapes
- apples
- tomatoes

They are not good until they reach the end of their growing season.

But the end does come.

And so will it be with the earth.

This is why it seems like evil is flourishing today, and perhaps it is, a
little.

God is telling us that we don't need to be on a witch hunt to see who is
real and who is not. It is just about impossible to tell. (that's scary)

v.39 *and the reapers are angels.*

Back on the farm:

v.40 *"So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so
shall it be at the end of the age.*

In our world:

v.41 *"The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness,*

"stumbling blocks" those who hinder the growth and walk of true believers

"lawlessness" outright rebels against God

v.42 *and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. – extreme torment*

Hell:

- darkness – Jude 1:13 (alone)
- fire and brimstone – Rev 21:8 (sulphur)
- lake of fire – Rev 21:10 (flames)
- bottomless pit – Rev 9:1 (very deep, abyss)
- second death – Rev 21:8 (total separation)

We must remember;

Hell was created, not for us but for the devil and his angels.

Mt 25:41 *Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;*

The good news is:

v.43 *"Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father.*

"Righteous" true believers/followers of Christ

He who has ears, let him hear. (Do you understand?)