



Table Talk

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, A

July 19, 2020

Matthew 13:24-30. 36-43
**“No, lest in gathering the weeds
you root up the wheat along
with them.” Vs. 29**



Jesus warns against the untimely and inappropriate separating of the weeds from the wheat. There is a time of waiting; it is known as the days of your baptism. You and others wait for your Lord Jesus Christ to come in glory. In the light of that glory, the weeds will be clearly distinguishable from the wheat. There are those who judge between weeds and wheat. These specialized “reapers” come from beyond the eschaton—the New Creation. They do not originate from this old, passing away world. So, we must wait. Weeds and wheat grow together for now because the time for separation is not yet and we have not the eyes to see the line of separation running between them.

The parable of the sower (Table Talk for 07-12-2020) has as its focus the quality of the soil. In this parable, the focus is not on the quality of the soil but on the quality of the seed sown. Take note: The seed does not determine its own quality. The one who sows determines the quality of the seed. The Son of Man sows good seed. The enemy (the devil) sows weeds. The seeds are “the sons of the kingdom” and the weeds are “the sons of the evil one” (vs. 38). They grow together

until the harvest at the end of the age when the eschatological reapers bring in their combines.

Jesus makes a rather disturbing switch of metaphors (vs. 41). The reapers do not gather “the weeds” nor the “sons of the evil one.” Rather the reapers gather “all causes of sin and all law-breakers.” This switch disturbs us—you and I—because we know and confess that we are sinners and therefore causes of sin; we know and confess that we break the law regularly and consistently. That reveals why we have not the eyes to see the line of separation between the wheat and the weeds: the line separating the “sons of the kingdom” out from “the sons of the evil one” certainly runs between them. But it also most certainly runs among the kingdom’s sons and, most disturbingly, the line runs within those sons as well. It runs between, among, and within you and me and all sinners and lawbreakers together.

Table Talk: Explain your understanding of how the line of separation runs “between,” “among,” and “within.”

Pray: Heavenly Father, fashion and mold me, again and again, into a child of the kingdom. Amen

Written by Rev. Timothy J. Swenson

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Matthew 13:24-43 English Standard Version (ESV)

24 He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field,

25 but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.

26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.

27 And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’

28 He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’

29 But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”.....

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.”

37 He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

38 The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,

39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.

40 Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.

41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers,

42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place 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.



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