

Title: WEEDS, SEEDS, AND PEARLS, MATTHEW 13:36-43 & 44-46  
(Chatham, NJ; 07/17/11, AM) [Pc – Narrative Analysis]

Theme: More parables of Jesus describe the presence of evil, the growth of the Kingdom, and the value of the Kingdom above all else.

Purpose: To encourage us to maintain our direction, to sustain our hope, and to place our value in the Kingdom of God.

Introduction:

1. Jesus tells more parables.
2. But let's not get caught up in the images; let's see what we can learn from them.
3. These are more allegories, and there are only representative characters, symbols of the types of people there are in the world.
4. The weeds, seeds, and pearls point to something bigger.

## I. Harvest Time – Wheat and Weeds

### A. Characters

1. Sower: son of man
2. Enemy: devil
3. Field: world
4. Good seed: children of the kingdom (not the Word)
5. Weeds: sons of the evil one
6. Harvest: close of the age
7. Reapers: angels

### B. Weeds and wheat separated

1. Weeds destroyed: place of weeping, gnashing teeth
2. Weeds are causes of sin and law-breakers
3. Wheat gathered into barn: righteous shine like the sun in the Kingdom

### C. Reward and punishment

1. History coming to a close with judgment to follow
2. A brief history of the world (good vs. evil as in Psalm 1) drawn in black and white
3. Parable of Net is similar.
4. Everyone must answer for their lives.

## II. Growth – Mustard Seeds, Yeast

### A. A small seed

1. A small seed planted in a garden; don't fuss over what this seed was.
2. When it matures, it provides a home for birds.
3. The kingdom is like that small seed.
4. Something small becomes a place of refuge.
5. For David and other Psalmists God was a place of refuge.

### B. Leaven – yeast or some form of natural leavening agent.

1. Small amount added to dough produces a risen dough.
2. The yeast influences the entire loaf.
3. The Kingdom's influence will be like that.
4. It affects everything.
5. See the quote from a Chinese scholar.

### C. Nothing will prevail against the Kingdom, Mt. 16:18.

1. It will grow and influence everything around it.

2. That it will conquer all other kingdoms gives Christians hope; God's history is on our side.
3. This is why we can be positive about the future.

### III. Value – The Quest for Riches (Visions of Eden or Treasure Island)

- A. Treasure in a field, 44
  1. A man finds a treasure.
  2. He buys the field.
  3. He sells all that he owns, and he rejoices.
  4. The treasure was worth everything else.
- B. A pearl of great price, 45-46
  1. A merchant searches for the greatest of all pearls
  2. He buys one of great value by selling all he has.
  3. The pearl was that valuable.
- C. Stories about what we really want and need.
  1. These items were costly but worth the price.
  2. The Kingdom of God is like them in that it is worth everything we have.
  3. Its value comes from redemption and redemption makes us better people not only for the future but in the here and now.

#### Conclusions:

1. What do these stories add to our lives?
2. I think they answer several key questions.
3. First, where are we going? The power of the first parable is its notion that time eventually comes to a conclusion. At the judgment God will separate evil from good. Are we ready for the final showdown?
4. Second, what keeps you going? That the Kingdom moves forward and grows, and despite setbacks, it provides hope. God's word will not return to him void.
5. Third, what is the most valuable thing to you? There is nothing greater in value than being a part of the Kingdom of God, both here and in eternity.
6. Remember the harvest, the growth of the Kingdom, and the value of the Kingdom.
7. They will guide your life.