

Title: A NARRATIVE OF REDEMPTION AND RETRIBUTION, MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43
(Chatham, NJ; 07/20/14, AM) [Pc – Narrative]

Theme: The Parable of the Weeds tells the story of the Kingdom's struggle against the sons of the evil one, and it reminds us that redemption comes with retribution.

Purpose: To reconcile God's love and judgment.

Introduction:

1. Even people who aren't religious understand something about justice.
2. They want bad people to get what's coming to them.
3. Why then should they be against God's justice and retribution?
4. If God is not a God of justice, then we have no hope for dealing with evil.
5. Redemption and retribution go hand in hand as the Parable of the Weeds demonstrates.

I. Redemption and Retribution

- A. Book of Revelation Tells the Tale of God's Victory over Evil
 1. Those who have given their lives for the Kingdom plead for justice, 6:9-11
 2. It will come at the right time
 3. Chapter 18 – a song of jubilation: "Fallen is Babylon, the Great,"
 4. "Come, Lord Jesus!" is a plea for redemption's fulfillment in judgment against God's enemies.
- B. Evil will not go unpunished
 1. Justice will be served
 2. "Vengeance is mine, I will repay" Hebrews 10:30
 3. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God," Hebrews 10:31
 4. "Our God is a consuming fire," Hebrews 12:29

II. The Story of Naboth's Vineyard, 1 Kings 21

- A. Political power at its worst (monarchical, executive, or otherwise)
 1. Ahab wants Naboth's vineyard, but he refuses to sell
 2. Jezebel hatches a plan: hire thugs to accuse Naboth falsely (Early Communists used the dregs of society to force people to obey or be harmed; they truly were an "evil empire")
 3. The plan works perfectly
 4. Ahab takes possession of the property
- B. Judgment pronounced and carried out
 1. Elijah confronts Ahab, 21:17-24
 2. Ahab repents? (27-29)
 3. However, the punishment still is carried out against his descendents, 2 Kings 9:25-26
 4. Against Jezebel, 2 Kings 9:30-37
 5. Note: Elijah did not live long enough to see this carried out

III. The Parable of the Weeds – The World As God Sees It

- A. The Parable
 1. Good seed is sown
 2. An enemy sows weeds
 3. They grow together
 4. They are separated at the harvest
 5. Weeds are burned

6. Wheat gathered into the barn

B. The characters are a little different than in the Parable of the Sower

1. The one who sows good seed is the Son of Man
2. Field is the world
3. Good seed = children of the Kingdom
4. Weeds = sons of the evil one
5. Enemy = devil
6. Harvest = the close of the age
7. Reapers = angels
8. Evil thrown into the fiery furnace: weeping and gnashing of teeth
9. Righteous will shine like the sun, 43
10. A story of the fall and of salvation history

C. The Concluding Chapter

1. Judgment is how God concludes human history, John 5:28-29
2. Justice will prevail
3. God's enemies will pay the price for their rebellion and resistance

Conclusion:

1. We trust that God will indeed prevail.
2. Though we endure injustices, lies, and arrogance from evil people, we place our hope and confidence in God.
3. Yet the sons of the evil one can always switch sides.
4. We remain faithful because God has promised redemption to his children.
5. Remain faithful; trust in the justice and mercy of God; seek to persuade others.