

**BIG IDEA: God grows his kingdom.****1) INTRO**

- “There isn’t a stronger connection between people than storytelling”
- We love stories – from young age on
  - Movie, book, family gatherings
    - LOTR, Marvel, Shackleton or Walsh & Sitting Bull
  - Entire brain
    - 65% of our conversation each day
- Jesus taps into this
  - JC uses these short stories to show us the truth of the Gospel
- “Parable” defined – a narrative or a saying designed to illustrate a truth through comparison...GRK “to cast alongside”
  - So this is what Jesus does
- “Parable” purpose – Jesus showed us why last week
  - That JC spoke in parables b/c God’s people will want to figure out what the parables mean while those who aren’t God’s people don’t want to understand b/c their hearts aren’t open to God’s message
    - May our hearts be open...even today as we hear
- And, today, JC is telling us a few stories to give us a greater understanding of the kingdom of heaven/God
  - Jared Wilson – “The parables give us a direct portal to the kingdom of God being done on earth as it is in heaven...when Jesus teaches a parable...he is revealing a glimpse of eternity crashing into time.”
- Jesus comes using these parables to give us a greater understanding of the kingdom of God
  - JC is the fulfillment of God’s plan for history....OT spoke of
  - The kingdom is present with Jesus
  - Jesus’ reign and rule in our hearts and lives
    - JC becomes real to us when we submit in faith to his Lordship in our lives
    - With the first coming of Jesus, the kingdom will be proclaimed and grow until Jesus – the Son of Man –

comes again to judge sinners and joyfully bring home his followers

## • BIG IDEA

**2) vv24-30**

- Storytelling Jesus paints a picture of what the kingdom of heaven/God is like
- He shows us that the kingdom of heaven is like the scenario of a man who...
  - Sowed good seed in his field
  - But, while his servants sleep, an enemy sneaks in and sows weeds among the wheat
    - He comes in while the servants sleep – he’s slick, he’s smart, he’s crafty...to infiltrate & ruin God’s plans
      - The Mole reality TV show
      - The picture given here is that the enemy/the Mole has slithered his way in and is trying to blend in to infiltrate and take over and ruin the plans of the sower/to choke out the wheat
    - So, the seeds sprouted and grew...weed seed “darnel”
    - But, as it grew, it became recognizable as a weed
    - And, so the master’s servants noticed the weeds and offered what anyone does when they see weeds – they offered to pull weeds
      - They offer to go in and take care of the weeds
      - They want the field to bear only wheat
    - They want to get rid of the bad...the best intentions
  - Surprising twist here: NOT to pull the weeds
    - Even though their natural response is to pull weeds
    - Even though they have the best intentions
    - They’re willing to work...in this way for the master
    - Gardeners know that pulling weeds can be hard...especially when it’s a big job, but necessary
      - Summer of funeral home work – pulling weeds
  - Master tells them to leave the weeds so that they don’t pull up the wheat with the weeds...wait until harvest time

### 3) vv31-35

- A grain of mustard seed
  - Mustard seed was smallest known seed in this context...about the size of a sesame seed to 10-15 ft
  - Inbreaking of God's kingdom may seem insignificant – or like nothing – but will grow and prove to be much greater
    - 1<sup>st</sup> century context & mighty Rome
    - Today in Christians' stifled influence voice
  - But, God grows his kingdom
    - Pic of tree w/ birds nesting in these branches
      - Ezek 17:23 - birds represent Gentiles nations
      - Grace, mercy, forgiveness all peoples
      - Regardless of the color of our skin, how much \$ we make, how much schooling we've had, what kind of job we have, good health/poor health, age...Jesus Christ saves us
        - When see he died in our place
        - When confess and repent
        - When surrender to his Lordship
- Parable of leaven/yeast
  - Usually symbol of evil – “beware of leaven of the Pharisees”
  - Point: God's reign and rule will fill & grow & change world
    - Bread or pizza crust – kitchen, yeast, smell
    - BIG IDEA
- These parables Jesus gives are to show that
  - Jesus fulfills Psalm 78:2 by speaking in parables
  - God's plan since beginning
    - OT pointed ahead to King and Lord conquer sin and defeat death
    - Here-and-now – in our hearts and lives
    - JC will return to claim his rightful place as King and Lord over all – one day
      - This is what we see as Jesus explains the parable of the wheat and weeds

- Apocalyptic, points to the end of the age...God will punish evil
  - This is pointing ahead to the return of Jesus
- Jesus spells out plainly parable of the wheat and weeds means
  - Disciples ask, he answers
  - BIG IDEA
- v37 – The One who sows good seed → The Son of Man/Jesus
  - “Son of Man” from Dan 7 - JC world dominion & worship
    - ALL are to serve him
      - Followers of Jesus are changed by him
  - God himself is the true sower of salvation...sovereign to save
  - He alone transforms our hearts...has the power to do that
- v38 – The field → The world
  - The good seed/wheat → sons of kingdom/people of God
  - The weeds → sons of evil one/evil people
  - A mission that's beyond the church
    - Believers & unbelievers in world until judgment day
    - As we live in this world together – in the midst of weeds, we should feel the importance of The Great Commission...[reach the lost!!]
      - God grows kingdom...uses us...Rom 10:14
      - Urgency to share Jesus
      - Especially given the weight of the rest of vv
- v39 – Enemy who sowed seeds → the devil
  - The harvest → the end of the age
  - The reapers/harvesters → angels (good angels)
- vv41-43 The final judgment will be separation of godly from ungodly
  - Jesus sends angels to gather & separate...Jesus authority
    - Those who are evil will be gathered and burned
    - Be sent to hell to endure the wrath of God as the just punishment for their sin
      - While not popular, this is truth...hell from JC
      - It's the place where unrepentant sinners – those who don't love Jesus & surrender to him – will endure the punishment we all deserve when we don't submit to, surrender to, and confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior

### 4) vv36-43

- The people of God and evil people will be separated...AND all ungodliness will be separated from the godly
- “Shine like the sun” ...separate from sin & all its effects

## 5) CONCL

- Don't we pray that many more people would become wheat rather than weeds?
  - As followers of Christ, this should be our heart's desire
  - Our desire should be that God would change the hearts of the weeds/sinful, evil people...just like we were without JC
  - Our hearts will grow to compassion for the lost, not vengeance
    - Luke 9:54-55 – James & John wanting to call down fire on the Samaritan village
- May we be wheat
  - I pray that you're wheat, not a weed
  - I pray that you're wheat who's bearing more wheat by lifting up and pointing to God, who pours out his sovereign grace on us
  - Even though this isn't popular
    - Only 8% of all Canadians view evangelism positively
    - We have our work cut out for us...but it's a good & worthwhile work...so many need Jesus
- God grows his kingdom...and uses us to grow his kingdom as well