

Sermon Study Guide – July 23rd, 2023

Today's Focus: "Christians Coexist"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ How do you see the word “coexist” used in our world today? Do you agree or disagree with this idea of coexist?
- ◆ In what way does God want us as Christians to coexist? Should we coexist with people who are sinning or promulgating evil? Should we try to cut these things out of our life?

2) Today's Message: Matthew 13:34-30,36-43

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. ²⁷ “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ ²⁸ “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ ²⁹ “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn...’” ³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. ⁴⁰ “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

3) What does God want you to hear today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:

Answer the following questions if it helps you follow the sermon...

1. What do these different things in the parable stand for?
 - ⇒ *the Master*
 - ⇒ *the Enemy*
 - ⇒ *the Wheat*
 - ⇒ *the Weeds*
 - ⇒ *the Harvest*
2. How are we like the servants in the parable?
3. Why is it not so simple to separate ourselves from the weeds?
4. Why is God merciful (and not malicious) in permitting the wheat and the weed to “coexist”?
5. What does God want it to look like when we coexist with other sinners (as sinners ourselves)? What’s he *not* want it to look like?
6. What plan might God have for in coexisting with “weeds”?

4) Taking it Home:

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week’s truths:

Monday: *review* Es. 7, Ps. 37, Ro. 1:18-25 **Thursday:** John 16:19-17:26

Tuesday: Psalm 73

Friday: Ecclesiastes 9

Wednesday: Isaiah 44

Saturday: *review* Mt. 13:24-30,36-43