

## Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map  
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43  
August 2, 2020

### Rejoice, discovering why Jesus said, “No, not yet!”

- What joy to look over a newly planted field/garden - seeing the crop come up.
- Joy turns to consternation when weeds show up.
  - ♦ Grandpa’s passion: Thistles and Milkweed. Get those weed seeds!
  - ♦ Dandelion, Hairy Bittercrest, common yellow oxalis - mine. Seeds spread.
- Note the response of the servants to the presence of the *weeds* in the wheat field.
  - ♦ *False wheat, poison darnel* - looks & acts like wheat, toxic from a fungus
  - ♦ Zeal to make the field flawless. Master: *Not yet. The reapers will deal with it.*

### Rejoice, discovering why Jesus said, “No, not yet!”

- ❖ Grieve over wickedness, but **don’t** seek to exterminate now.
  - Here people under God’s influence live next to those under Satan’s influence
  - God’s children are troubled by and grieve over:
    - ♦ **everything that causes sin** - things that entice, then trap in sin
    - ♦ **those who continue to break the law** - live lawless, contempt for law
  - Enlightened by the word, we know sin is bad and God’s ways liberate
    - ♦ Grieve to see sin normalized, enticing the naive (children) into a trap
      - Glorifying gangs, seeking to *belong*. Mass killings to be *known* - *a someone*.
      - Thuggery to make a living, a lifestyle of pleasure, become wealthy.
      - Glorifying the party scene of *fun* as *the life*. Drunk, high, altered states.
      - Provocative dress and talk, scheming to get pregnant without marriage, living together without marriage, abortion as *birth control*.
      - Seeing pleasure through pornography as normal. In fact highly destructive.
    - ♦ Lawlessness and injustice
      - Rioting and looting - destroying neighborhoods, livelihoods, the vulnerable
      - Drug trafficking, sex trafficking, kidnapping for ransom
      - Oppression of classes and cultures: minorities in America (Chinese, Japanese, Native American, people of color); Rohingya of Myanmar, Uighurs of China, humanitarian disaster of Yemen and Syria. Oppression of Christians in Nigeria, Pakistan, China, Indonesia and on and on.
  - God’s people grieve over sin’s entrapment and contempt of right and wrong
    - ♦ We cry out: *How long, Lord? Why don’t you put a stop to it?*
    - ♦ Should Christians put a stop to blatant sin?
    - ♦ History if full of *Christians* with false zeal, seeking to fix with law & sword
      - Crusades, Inquisition, KKK, killing abortionists
      - Here Jesus teaches us it’s not our job to rid the world of sin. That’s God’s job.
      - Romans 12: <sup>18</sup> *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, maintain peace with everyone.* <sup>19</sup> *Do not take revenge, dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath. For it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay,” says the Lord.*
      - Romans 13 - God deals with evildoers through the State, his servants
        - But there is no such thing as a Christian State imposing Christian behavior

- Jesus reveals God’s plan and thinking.
  - ◆ God removes people under the Devil’s rule and influence on the Last Day
  - ◆ Concern and care for God’s people is the reason it doesn’t happen now.
  - ◆ ***‘No, because when you gather up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat along with them.’<sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest,***
    - While, we know the harmful influences of sin, many believers would be severely harmed if unbelieving family and friends were yanked out now.
    - Lives disrupted, poverty, weak faith disturbed, anger, confusion...
    - Judgment is delayed for the sake of believers - God is merciful.
    - Elsewhere we learn, grace is extended to the wicked, time to be rescued from living under Satan’s reign, lies, and captivity. Again, God’s mercy is shown.

### **Rejoice, discovering why Jesus said, “No, not yet!”**

- ❖ Rejoice, God’s justice and deliverance will prevail.
  - Our longing to be rescued from the heartache, temptation, assaults of sin is good.
  - That’s God’s desire for us and his ultimate promise - fully rescued from sin.
  - God’s creation rightfully belongs to him and his children. Sin must be removed.
    - ◆ This means God will extract all under the reign of wickedness and the Devil
    - ◆ Matthew 25 reveals the angels will gather them before Jesus
      - There the sharp clear verdict will be spoken - *Depart cursed.*
      - Their love for sin and lies - contempt of God, righteousness, and truth - expose them as not belonging with God and his people. Not blessed! Cursed.
      - It is **just** to get what they demanded - separation from God & all that’s right
      - ***...the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.***
        - *Gnashing of teeth:* grinding - expression of scorn, anger, or pain
        - Eternal bitterness, blaming God & others. Their sin nature is fully exposed.
    - ◆ This is the only way we can be delivered from everything saturated by sin.
  - We know this is what our sin deserved. Praise God Jesus endured this for us.
    - ◆ God’s people aren’t better. We’re made new by Jesus, through faith.
    - ◆ God rescued us from sin here, making us children of God’s kingdom.
    - ◆ We live under the influence and reign of righteousness, truth, Jesus.
      - By conversion, our eyes are opened. We see sin is bad, righteousness is good.
    - ◆ The fullest extent of God’s saving work will become clear.
      - ***Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.***
      - God will have fully remade us in his likeness - free of all sin’s perversions.
      - Not only will we be liberated from sinners next to us, but sin inside of us!
      - All who delight in such an eternity long to grow in righteousness now.
  - ***Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.***
    - ◆ As we grieve over all the evil and injustice, Jesus gives us reason to rejoice.
    - ◆ Let us hear, lest evil lure us and entrap us, separating us from Jesus.
    - ◆ Let us hear, so we partner with Jesus on his rescue mission now.
      - Encourage God’s children to remain in Christ and grow.
      - Reach out with the gospel to rescue people from Satan’s traps. Now is mercy!

### **Rejoice, discovering why Jesus said, “No, not yet!”**

It liberates us and others.