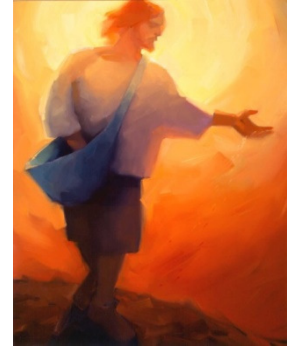


**St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church**  
**Sermon by Pastor A. Schultz**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 10, 2013**  
**Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43**



<sup>24</sup> Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. <sup>27</sup> "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?' <sup>28</sup> "An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' <sup>29</sup> "No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> 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.'" ..... <sup>36</sup> 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." <sup>37</sup> He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> 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, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. <sup>40</sup> "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Children of our Heavenly Father-precious in His sight for Jesus' sake:

There are in this world only two kinds of people. Those who love Jesus and those who don't. I was driving through Rosendale the other day – when I got behind somebody that I'm pretty sure doesn't love Jesus. He had a bumper sticker that says, "Darwin loves you!" Not Jesus loves you – but Darwin loves you! Darwin – Charles Darwin – the author of *On the Origin of Species* – developed theories about natural selection and survival of the fittest--as the basis for evolution – to try and explain the diversity of creatures in the world – apart from Jesus. Darwin began his studies with God's Word. Back in the day – it was often Pastors who went on to study biology, botany and geology and such – to explore and better understand *the wonderful works of God!* Darwin was part of *HMS Beagle's* 5 year cruise. Darwin studied geology, then studied ocean creatures – invertebrate – like plankton and much more. Darwin had ten children. He especially loved his daughter **Anne Marie**. When Anne Marie became painfully ill Darwin would pray for her. Some 21 days after her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday – instead of making her better – Jesus made her perfect. And yet perhaps you can see where Darwin might conclude, "If God doesn't help you when you need Him most – what's the point?" Not understanding or believing that Jesus had taken Anne to Heaven – Darwin despaired of his faith – and said he didn't believe anymore! In his autobiography Darwin said he couldn't believe in a God who would send anyone to Hell. So – a bumper-sticker that says *Darwin Loves You* in contrast to the stickers that say *Jesus Loves You* would seem to publicly declare, "I don't believe in Jesus" – and so? The same bumper that has a sticker that says, "**I was born just fine the first time**" – would also seem

to argue against Jesus' words to Nicodemus, "You must be born again!" God's Word reminds us this morning:

### Understand the Parable of Weeds and Wheat!

#### I. The weeds will be forever burning

#### II. The wheat will shine in Heaven!

The part of God's Word we are concentrating on today is part of the Gospel of the Tax Collector Matthew! The Gospel of Matthew is where to look for many of Jesus' parables – earthly stories with Heavenly meanings. The context here includes 7 parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. Not a place but the Word of God powerful and active in the ♥s and lives of God's people! You know the parables – last Sunday we read *the sower and the seed*. Today we are looking at the parable of *the weeds and the wheat*. Then the parable of *the mustard seed* and *the parable of the yeast*. These parables Jesus taught from the pulpit of the boat – pushed away from the shore – to talk to all the people listening from the shore. The last 3 parables – the parable of *the hidden treasure – the pearl and the net* were spoken in the house. Jesus also waited until he was in the house to explain the parable of *the weeds and the wheat*. Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field." ...simple enough... "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man." <sup>38</sup> The field is the world... The world belongs to the Son of Man – the world belongs to Jesus! Psalm 24:1 King David wrote familiar words, "The earth is the LORD's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters." This whole planet belongs to the LORD. Sometimes we forget that! If anyone ought to be concerned about being a good steward of the environment it ought to be Christians. That means don't take old medication and flush it away – so that your old **medications** go into the ground water. There are all kinds of cigarette filters that come washing down beside the curvy curb past our home. Those cigarette **filters** that people flick out of their car windows with such practiced ease or squash into the sidewalk outside bars and taverns will in fact melt into oblivion in about 31 years! I will be about 93 years old – when cigarettes thrown out today finally melt! Don't dump the **oil** you change from your car into some sneaky place behind your property. Those 4 or 5 quarts will leach into the ground water, too! Don't grumble about the weather. Jesus is in charge of that, too! We shouldn't be like whiny children complaining about the **weather**. It's too hot! It's too cold. It's too humid! It's too dry! And then when it rains it rains too hard. We need a gentle soaker rain – not this gully washer that just hits the hard ground and runs off! Now there is little hail – ice falling out of the sky. I hope it doesn't ding the paint on one of my cars that is in the driveway – because my garage is full of so many things and so much stuff – there's hardly room for my SUV, too! Who is in charge of the weather? Jesus is. Does he love us? Absolutely! Does he know what he is doing? Absolutely! Will all things work together for good for those who love God? Absolutely! Have you seen the corn lately? Stalk after stalk – over my head! We need to thank Jesus for every day – as he takes care of the weather, too!

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field." Again Jesus explains: "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The field is the world... Some 206 different countries – from **Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria and Andorra**. Andorra? A country that is ruled by both the President of France and the Bishop of Urgell – appointed by the Pope! Did you know that? From Afghanistan all the way to **Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe**! All these people speaking all their different languages. People who live in Nigeria – have a different dialect for each **county**! Imagine if people in Dodge County used different

words than people in Jefferson County or Fond du Lac County or Waukesha County? The Gospel needs to spread to people everywhere! Did you see the man in **Perth** in Australia – who accidentally stepped between the commuter train car and the concrete of the commuter train station? He was helpless to free himself. What happened? All the people all around him – came to the rescue! Bunches and bunches of people put their hands against the train car. One, two, three – they all pushed as hard as they could! The train car moved – and the man’s foot was freed! If you were the man who was saved – what would you do? Would you say, “Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!” – to as many people as you could? Would you write down their names and addresses – so you could send them a present? Would you offer to take them all out to eat? How do you repay someone for not just saving your foot – but saving your life? Then how do you thank Jesus for saving your soul? By dedicating your life anew – every morning – to do whatever you do – to give glory and thanks and praise to Him!

**<sup>25</sup> But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. <sup>27</sup> “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?’ <sup>28</sup> “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ <sup>29</sup> “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest.’”** Ζιζάνια are weeds that look just like wheat. It’s very difficult to tell the difference – until the heads of wheat form. The grains of ζιζάνια are black and hold a fungus that is poisonous! Jesus further explains: **The weeds are the people of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sows them is the devil.** The devil is real. Satan, the father of lies, the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the lord of the flies – is real. He is not all knowing. If he was – the last thing he would have wanted was for Judas to betray Jesus, Pilate to wash his hands, the Roman soldiers to crucify him. The last thing he would want would be for Jesus to be dead and buried – because on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day Jesus rose from the dead – and lives and reigns eternally! The devil is not everywhere at once. The devil is not all powerful! God’s Word says, **“Submit yourselves, then to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded...Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up!”** James 4:7,8,10

**The weeds are the people of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. <sup>40</sup> “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.** Again – if there are in fact somewhere in the neighborhood of 450,000 words in the English language they don’t seem sufficient to explain how horrible hell must be! This past Wednesday was the **69<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the nuclear bomb being dropped on Hiroshima. I would not be born for another 7 years. Sometimes you can see film of the mushroom cloud. Sometimes you can see terrible pictures of unspeakable results. When I was very young – Life magazine had a photograph of a mom bathing a little infant – painfully deformed – so it said – from the radiation from the bomb. As unspeakably horrible as that was – it pales to insignificance compared to the horror of hell. Jesus said it will be a place of unquenchable fire – a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth. People grind and gnash their teeth in the face of unbearable pain. I have seen people in terrible pain. I saw one of my sheep – thrown from a **pickup truck** – with both his arms and both his legs broken. But perhaps the most terrible aspect of hell is – *it never ends!* The most terrible earthly suffering – physical pain

and anguish will ultimately end – when you die! But the suffering of hell will never end. In the *Inferno* (Italian for "Hell") the first part of Dante Alighieri's 14th-century epic poem *Divine Comedy* Dante imagines a sign over the place where you enter hell. It reads – "Abandon hope – all you who enter here!" Abandon hope! There is no hope – not after a million, billion trillion times a million, billion trillion years – the suffering will never end. It has only just begun. It has been said – if we really truly believe that – we will surely tell our family, our friends and our neighbors about Jesus!

Jesus surely saved the best for last. <sup>43</sup> **Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.** The Apostle John was afforded a glimpse into the joy and peace that is Heaven. We don't need to be afraid to **read the Revelation** to John. Some of it is as the disciples liked to say, "A hard saying" ...not the easiest to understand. But much of Revelation is exceeding clear and to the point. Revelation chapter 7 is part of Scripture we read at almost every funeral at St. Luke's! <sup>9</sup> **After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.** <sup>10</sup> **And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."** <sup>11</sup> **All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,** <sup>12</sup> **saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"** <sup>13</sup> **Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?"** <sup>14</sup> **I answered, "Sir, you know."** And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> **Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.** <sup>16</sup> **'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them, nor any scorching heat.** <sup>17</sup> **For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water.' 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"** How wonderful will it be when the wheat is safe at home in Heaven? I can only imagine! Amen!  
To God alone all glory!

