



## Kingdoms in Conflict and the Way of Peace

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<sup>24</sup>Here is another story Jesus told: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup>But that night as everyone slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat. <sup>26</sup>When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew. <sup>27</sup>The farmer's servants came and told him, 'sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds!'

<sup>28</sup>"An enemy has done it! the farmer exclaimed. "Shall we pull out the weeds?' they asked.

<sup>29</sup>"He replied, 'No, you'll hurt the wheat if you do. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds and burn them and to put the wheat in the barn."

<sup>36</sup>.....His disciples said, "Please explain the story of the weeds in the field." <sup>37</sup>"All right," he said. "I, the Son of Man, am the farmer who plants the good seed. <sup>38</sup>The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. <sup>39</sup>The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels.

<sup>40</sup>"Just as the weeds are separated out and burned, so it will be at the end of the world. <sup>41</sup>I, the Son of Man, will send my angels, and they will remove from my Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace and burn them. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the godly will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Anyone who is willing to hear should listen and understand! - Matt 13:24-30;36-43

### I. Kingdoms In Conflict

#### • The Cosmic Conflict

<sup>8</sup>Next the Devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him the nations of the world and all their glory. <sup>9</sup>"I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will only kneel down and worship me."

<sup>10</sup>"Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God; serve only him.'" - Matt. 4:8-10

#### • Conflict With Human Authority

<sup>37</sup>Pilate replied, "You are a king then?"

"You say that I am a king, and you are right," Jesus said. "I was born for that purpose. And I came to bring truth to the world. -John 13:37

#### • Conflict In Personal Relationships

<sup>3</sup>Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! No, I came to bring a sword. <sup>35</sup>I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

<sup>36</sup>Your enemies will be right in your own household!" -Matt. 10:34-35

### II. The Way of Peace

#### 1. Expect Trouble

"When the world hates you, remember it hated me before it hated you. - John 15:18

#### 2. Work For Peace

"God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God". -Matt. 5:9

#### 3. Love Your Enemies

"But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! -Matt. 5:44

#### 4. Put Your Sword Away

"Put away your sword. Those who use the sword will be killed by the sword."

- Matt. 26:51

#### 5. Pray For Political Leaders

Pray this way for kings and all others who are in authority, so that we can live in peace and quietness, in godliness and dignity. -1 Tim. 2:2

#### 6. Your First Loyalty Is To The King of Kings

But Peter replied, "We must obey God rather than human authority. - Acts 5:29

#### 7. Try To Live at Peace With Everyone

Try to live in peace with everyone, - Hebrews 12:14

#### 8. Justice Will Come In The End

"Just as the weeds are separated out and burned, so it will be at the end of the world." - Matt 13:40