

Jesus On Purpose: The Path Of A Resurrected Heart

SERMON 15: THE HARVEST: WHAT THE RESURRECTION HAS BEEN PREPARING US FOR

Texts: Matthew 13; Mark 4

The resurrection is not merely the end of the Christian life. It is the harvest of the Christian life.

When Jesus begins teaching the Kingdom through parables in Matthew 13, He is no longer simply explaining how people come to faith. He is preparing His disciples for the end of the story.

Everything now moves toward the harvest.

Jesus says plainly:

"The harvest is the end of the age." (Mt 13:39)

This is one of the clearest eschatological statements Jesus ever makes.

The harvest is not merely the gathering of believers.

It is the culmination of everything God has been accomplishing since creation.

It is the moment when resurrection reaches its fullness.

I. The Church Age Is the Growing Season

Paul tells us that Christ rose as **the First fruits**.

And this is a vital eschatological principle: Christ has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep, with believers following in their own order at His coming (**1 Cor 15:20-23**). This isn't merely a temporal sequence but reveals the organic connection between Christ's resurrection and the believer's future transformation.

The first fruits offering was never the entire harvest. The first fruits represent the early arrival of a portion of the harvest—part of what is to come, simply arriving earlier than the rest. This means Christ's resurrection is not an isolated historical event but belongs to the general resurrection of the dead yet to come, as the early arrival of that harvest

It was God's guarantee that the rest of the harvest was coming.

To understand the Harvest we must understand the Church Age and Jesus explains this beautifully in **Mt 13: 24-30**: ²⁴*Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. ²⁶But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. ²⁷So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' ²⁸He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' ²⁹But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."*

I actually think this parable explains why God created the Church Age at all. It is one of Jesus' clearest answers to the question, "Why doesn't God simply end evil now?"

****Jesus' parable of the wheat and the tares answers one of humanity's oldest questions:**

If Jesus has already defeated sin and death, why doesn't He simply end evil now?

The disciples expected immediate judgment. And their faith was tested because of not understanding what Jesus was saying to them.

- The Messiah had come.
- Surely now He would remove the wicked, establish His Kingdom, and reign.

Instead, Jesus says something astonishing.

"Let both grow together until the harvest."

Here is the answer: The Church Age exists because God is **growing** wheat before He gathers wheat.

The Kingdom is not merely waiting for history to end. The Kingdom is preparing people for eternity.

******* The making of a man is not someone doing it for them all the time, but that someone allowing him to make his own mistakes, and willfully adjust his heart, ask for help and grow to become the man that's in front of him. This is a picture of a Father and Son, and it is very reminiscent of Josh and me. I want to do everything for him, so he doesn't have to go through my pain that I went through. But his biggest complaint, is I want to be a man and grow, and I cannot if dad is always doing it for me. Josh doesn't abandon me or completely erase me from his life, he want to become a man with me by his side.

That is what Jesus is communicating to us.In the same way I will not allow my son to fail, is the same way Jesus dies for us, therefore Salvation is a gift, not one I must work for.

But The gift, the notion of a Father that would do anything for his son doesn't equate to you having to do works to gain something, is you work to become a man.

God allows the harvest season for us to become the eternal saint we choose to be, we can enter eternity with nothing or we can enter eternity with eternal rewards.

***We must not allow, We cannot allow sin and disappointment and hurt and pain water down our faith and preach either gospel...the one that Jesus did everything for us and we don't have to do a thing, and likewise we must work and tire ourselves to show out loyalty. Both are tied to hurt and pain and are a deception that we Must OVERCOME!!

II. THE HARVEST IS ONE EVENT WITH MANY DIMENSIONS

Jesus describes the harvest as one unified event. Several things happen simultaneously.

1. The Wheat Is Gathered

"Gather the wheat into my barn." (Mt 13:30)

This is the glorious gathering of God's people.

It includes:

- the resurrection of believers
- the gathering of the elect
- the transformation of living saints
- the complete reunion of Christ and His Bride

The harvest is the fulfillment of everything First fruits promised.

2. The Tares Are Removed

At the same time, Jesus says:

"The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks and those who practice lawlessness." (Mt 13:41) (The parables of the Tares explained)

Notice what Jesus does not do.

- He does not tell His disciples to uproot the weeds.
- He tells them to let both grow together until the harvest.

Why?

- Because premature judgment destroys wheat along with weeds.

The disciples expected immediate judgment.

Jesus taught *patient endurance*.

There will always be wheat growing beside weeds. Faith beside unbelief. Truth beside deception.

The Church does not establish the final separation.

Jesus does.

The harvest belongs to Him.

3. The Righteous Shine

Then Jesus gives one of the greatest resurrection promises in Scripture.

"Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father." (Mt 13:43)

This is glorification.

This is resurrection life completed.

Paul describes the same moment:

"The dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed." (1Cor 15:52)

The harvest is not simply about being gathered.

It is about becoming fully what God has always intended His people to become. And it is not automatic, what we become is based on our righteousness today. Overcoming sin.

¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. ¹²Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. ¹³But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. ¹⁴If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames. (1Cor 3:11-15)

⁴⁰There are also bodies in the heavens and bodies on the earth. The glory of the heavenly bodies is different from the glory of the earthly bodies. ⁴¹The sun has one kind of glory, while the moon and stars each have another kind. And even the stars differ from each other in their glory. (1 Cor 15:40,41)

III. THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER IS REALLY ABOUT THE HARVEST

This changes how we read the first parable.

The question Jesus asks is not merely:

"Did the seed get planted?"

The question is:

Did it survive until harvest?

- The hardened soil never receives.
- The rocky soil receives but falls away when suffering comes.
- The thorny soil grows but is slowly choked by the world.
- Only the good soil continues growing until harvest.

The warning is deeply eschatological. Not every beginning reaches God's intended ending.

The harvest reveals what the seed became over a lifetime.

IV. So Why the Growing Season.....Why Allow this time in between the Resurrection of Jesus and The final Harvest? Because...

A. THE GROWING SEASON REVEALS WHAT IS REAL

When the seed is first planted, the wheat and the tares look remarkably similar.

Only time reveals the difference.

Likewise, professions of faith are easy.

- Fruit takes time.
- Roots take time.
- Character takes time.
- Endurance takes time.

God is not interested merely in beginnings.

He is preparing a harvest.

The growing season exposes what every heart truly loves.

B. THE GROWING SEASON FORMS THE RESURRECTED HEART

This is why Jesus tells the servants not to uproot the weeds.

If they acted too quickly, they would damage the wheat.

The Father's priority is not simply removing evil.

His priority is preserving and maturing His children.

The Church Age is God's school of resurrection.

Here we learn:

- faith before sight
- obedience before reward
- humility before exaltation
- perseverance before glory

This is where roots grow deep enough to survive ***“not loving our lives unto death”***

God is not merely producing converts.

He is producing sons and daughters who resemble His Son.

C. THE GROWING SEASON EXPLAINS WHY EVIL STILL EXISTS

Many ask,

“If God is good, why does He allow evil?”

Jesus answers: ***Because the harvest has not yet come.***

God's patience is not weakness.

It is mercy.

Every additional day is another opportunity for repentance.

Every additional season is another chance for wheat to mature.

Peter later echoes this same truth:

“The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. (2Pet 3:9)

God delays judgment because He desires redemption.

D. THE GROWING SEASON TESTS OUR ALLEGIANCE

Notice what Jesus does not promise.

He never promises a weed-free field.

The wheat must learn to grow while surrounded by tares.

The Church has always lived in the presence of:

- deception
- persecution
- compromise
- injustice
- counterfeit believers
- spiritual opposition

Why?

Because resurrection people are not formed in comfort. They are formed through faithful endurance.

The growing season teaches us not merely to believe in Christ, but to become like Christ.

E. THE GROWING SEASON ENDS AT THE HARVEST

Jesus never says the growing season lasts forever. It has an appointed end.

The harvest arrives.
 The Son of Man sends His angels.
 The tares are removed.
 The wheat is gathered.
 The righteous are glorified.
 The resurrection is completed.
 Everything Jesus has been cultivating reaches its fullness.

F. THE RESURRECTED HEART

The resurrected heart understands that life today is not the destination.

It is preparation.

We are living between First fruits and Harvest.

- Christ has already risen.
- Now His people are growing.

Every trial deepens our roots. Every act of obedience strengthens our faith. Every surrender forms Christ within us.

The Church Age is not God's delay.

It is God's cultivation.

The Father is patiently growing a harvest that looks like His Son.

And when the harvest is complete, the First fruits will return to gather the rest of His crop into His eternal barn.