

Point of the parable: The Kingdom of Heaven (God's rule) is the place where good and evil are truly discerned and fully dealt with

- In this world we seem to have blurred lines
- This world celebrates what ought to be condemned, and condemns what ought to be celebrated
 - [Isaiah 5:20-21](#), NASB
- In this world it sometimes feels like evil goes unchecked

The hope in this parable is that God will one day deal with that, in His kingdom rule

Final judgment is a key doctrine of Christianity

- Our entire faith rests in part on the idea that there will be a future/final judgment for sin ("Day of J")
- If there is not, then there is not need for repentance and forgiveness before God
- Jesus' death on the Cross was the act of Him taking our place in judgment
- This happens because God loves us so much ([John 3:16](#))
- God loves, so God **forgives sin**

But if God truly loves us—if God is actually a God of love, then He must also judge sin

- It is not loving to leave evil unaccountable

Now, the hard part about this life is that today is not the "Day of Judgment"

- So our experience is often that of seeing sin, evil, the rejection of truth go unchecked
- It is hard to live that way
 - It feels unfair
 - It can leave us feeling powerless and hopeless

But, the call of Scripture is to **trust judgment**

God has promised that evil and sin will not go ultimately unchecked ([Psalm 92:6-9](#), NLT)

- There is a **day of reckoning**
 - For both the devil and for people who do evil ([Revelation 20:11-15](#), NASB)
 - Even whole nations will be judged ([Matthew 25:31-33](#), NASB)

Judgment is good

- Proof of God's love
- All things set right
- We need to **trust** both those things

How does this play out in our lives today?

- Several ways, but look at the example we have here: [Matthew 13:53-14:12](#)
 - Outright rejection (in Nazareth)
 - Abject evil (in Herod)
- Immediately after teaching on judgment (13:47-50), He is rejected (13:53-58), and gross evil is committed (14:1-12)

Jesus then shows us a different way to exist in the face of rejection and evil

- See [Matthew 14:13a](#)
- We know what Jesus was doing when He did this (communing with the Father)
- He looked upward in the face of rejection and evil
 - There could have been other ways to respond (we see those in the Gospels)
 - But here is another way... to press into the Father's love
 - [Psalm 61:1-4](#), NASB
 - [Psalm 91:1-3 & 4](#), NLT

This is not escapism—this is the place of strength, peace and clarity

- Psalm 36:1-9, NASB

Withdrawing into the Father's presence is the place of strength, peace and clarity in the face of evil

- We can begin to function from that place
 - Sometimes we must do something radical in the face of evil
 - Sometimes we cannot (helpless) and have to **trust judgment**

It can be easier to trust judgment on a grand, global scale than when something is up close and personal

- For example, the rejection of Jesus in His hometown
- How do we deal with stuff like that
 - We want to:
 - Get even
 - Fire back
 - Be vindicated
 - **Romans 12:9-21** (which see)
- Life is full of unfair situations (in speaking about these Peter said...)
 - **1 Peter 2:19-25**, NLT

The reason we can **trust judgment** is because **we can trust Jesus**

- Jesus is the **faithful and true judge** (**Revelation 19:11**, NASB)
- There is no one to better to judgment
 - Jesus loves perfectly
 - Jesus is omniscient
 - Jesus is just
 - Jesus is merciful
 - (These are also reasons why we make bad judges) (Limited knowledge, partiality, lack of mercy)

Where do you need to trust Jesus by trusting Judgment?

- Where are you looking for revenge, but what you really need is rest in the Father's arms?
- Where do you feel overwhelmed by evil? Hopeless and powerless?
- The Father's love...