

**SERIES:** *The Puzzle of Parables*  
**TITLE:** *Living in the Tension*  
**SPEAKER:** *Pastor Kip McCormick*  
**PASSAGE:** *Matthew 13:24-43*  
**DATES:** *November 6-7, 2021*

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### MESSAGE TAKEAWAYS

- Our job is to reflect Jesus as we live in the tension of a fallen world.
  - Be aware, be wise, be patient and believe.
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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How has the paradigm of the coexistence of good and evil affected your thoughts, both in the past and currently, about God and about people?
  - Read Matthew 13:24-30. What did Kip say about the similarities and differences between wheat and bearded darnels? Why did the farmer in the parable tell his servants to let them both grow together; and what does that have to do with good and evil growing (or coexisting) together?
  - Jesus explained the parable to His disciples in verses 37-39. What have you believed about "the evil one" or "the devil" before hearing this parable? Did any of the misconceptions Kip mentioned about Satan resonate with those beliefs? (Misconceptions: Satan is a force, he is equal to God and he is everywhere at once.)
  - Of the seven descriptions listed by Kip of who Satan actually is, which one was the most eye-opening and why? (He's a personal being, he is a created but rebellious angel, he doesn't rule in hell, he only does what God allows, he's not all-present, he's actively working against God, and he has dominion until Christ returns)
  - How does Jesus' summary of His teaching in verses 40-43 make you feel? As you process those feelings, reflect on these verses from 2 Peter 3:8-9 from The Passion Translation: "So, dear friends, don't let this one thing escape your notice: a single day counts like a thousand years to the Lord Yahweh, and a thousand years counts as one day. This means that, contrary to man's perspective, the Lord is not late with His promise to return, as some measure lateness. But rather, his 'delay' simply reveals His loving patience toward you, because He does not want any to perish but all to come to repentance."
  - Kip mentioned Timothy Keller's question that is paraphrased something like this: Are you aware of your sins and faults but more aware of God's love for you? How would you respond?
  - In your interactions with people who are all in different places in their faith journey, how can you "rock the cosmos" by reflecting Jesus and disrupting the devil's schemes?
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### NEXT STEPS

- As you self-assess, how are you reflecting Jesus in your world?
- Chuck Swindoll offers: "To understand a parable you must listen carefully, think deeply and open your heart." How are the parables in this series affecting your life/heart?