

# “The Counter Culture”

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Text: Isaiah 60:1-7, Matthew 13:24-43

## The Flood

Isaiah 59:18 According to their deeds, accordingly *He will repay, Fury to His adversaries, Recompense to His enemies; The coastlands He will fully repay.* 19 So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; **When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.**

## The Counter Culture

Matthew 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

## The Problem

Matthew 13:24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a *man who sowed good seed in his field;* 25 but while men slept, *his enemy came and sowed tares* among the wheat and went his way.

## “Our” Solution

Matthew 13:26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So 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?*' 28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, '*Do you want us then to go and gather them up?*'

## God’s Answer

Matthew 13:29 But he said, '*No*, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 *Let 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.'"

**“Your Problem” is not the problem  
“Your” enemy is not the enemy**

## What you believe about God

Genesis 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, '*I am Almighty God;* walk before Me and be blameless. 2 And *I will make My covenant* between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."

## Ask this question

Jeremiah 32:26 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying, 27 "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. *Is there anything too hard for Me?*

### **Is He the God of “good” things**

Psalm 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory;  
***No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly*** 12 O LORD of hosts,  
Blessed is the man who trusts in You!

### **What should I do?**

Isaiah 60:1 ***Arise, shine; For your light has come!*** And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. 2  
For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people;  
***But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.*** 3 The Gentiles shall come to  
your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.