



The Threshing Floor: The Chaff

Hosea 13:3 *“Therefore they shall be like the morning mist or like the dew that goes away early, like chaff that swirls from the threshing floor or like smoke from a window.”*

We know that wheat is the good stuff in the Bible. A bunch of good things come from the wheat like bread and wine. People are filled and satisfied when they eat and drink from the byproduct of wheat. That makes this thing called the threshing floor a busy place. It can be an alter for sacrifice. Why? It’s because animals are separated for food and sacrifice there. The threshing floor is also a place where important events happened. The community gathers here to talk and discuss important issues. For some reason the threshing floor is a big deal. The basics of life begin there. I suspect the community flows from the work of the threshing floor. Just as a community hall or barn dance fuels a rural community, the threshing floor has great importance.

The Chaff, on the other hand, is the bad stuff. These days we throw away double packaging. It’s there for a reason until we need what is inside. Then the plastic wrap is tossed in the can. The Chaff is the husk of the kernel of wheat. It’s important until we need the kernel. Then it’s just tossed away in the wind. If you don’t know, the whole grain is tossed in the air till it hits the threshing basket. This process repeats itself over and over until the husk (chaff) falls off. The wind is used to blow away the chaff as the grain flies in the air.

Psalm 83:13 *“O my God, make them like whirling dust, like chaff before the wind.”*

You could call it useless, but is it? Actually, on further review, yes, it's useless. Chaff is not really something that is used after it is removed. It's not even good enough for most animals to munch on. The Bible likes to mention wheat and chaff because it's a metaphor. We should be the wheat when we throw off the chaff of our sin. Are you something God can use? Some people could say that God is throwing away the sinner. Yet, the Bible is clear, God says we are the wheat. Zephaniah 2 begins with God being angry with the drifting chaff. Why? If you read on it says that it does not have to be that way. If we seek God and listen to him, we are not chaff thrown to the wind. He can use us.

It's all about separating something in the Bible. Sheep and goats or wheat and chaff. Jesus talked about pruning the vine. The fig tree withers and produces no fruit. If it's not broke then don't fix it. God feels the same way. However, the reverse is true as well. If there is something useless in your life then we need to get rid of it. Romans 13:12 *"The night is far spent; the day is at hand. Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light."* God will give us many chances to come to him. Yet, there is a point where we don't want to be God's wheat. Instead, people fight like hell to be Satan's chaff.

1 Chronicles 21:22 *"David said to Ornan, "Give me the site of the threshing floor that I may build on it an altar to the Lord—give it to me at its full price—so that the plague may be averted from the people."*

There is another angle. Altars and anointings happen at the threshing floor. Wheat is taken and burned on the altar as a sacrifice for sin. This could be a place where animals are separated for sacrifice too. There are some references to decisions being made here at the threshing floor. The good is used and the bad is discarded. Some scholars like to believe that Golgotha is David's threshing floor. Others believe that Boaz' threshing floor is the same place

as where Abraham wanted to sacrifice his son. Who knows? Yet, clearly the threshing floor is an important place. The separation of the chaff is important too. God is holy. We are only to bring our best to him. The chaff must go.

Matthew 3:12 “His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

In the end of days there are descriptions of our works being burned up. That some of the earth will be claimed by fire. God is a consuming fire! God will separate the sinner and saint. You don't get to claim you are wheat. God knows! Joseph was separated from his brothers. God needed him to go through trials to become a man of God. Abraham had to leave the land of his birth. David was on the run. Jesus could do little in his home town. Paul had to leave the religion of his youth.

1 Corinthians 15: 51-52 “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”

Being the chaff is a bad idea. The world says “you do you.” People and God must accept our version of ourselves. Yet, God made us. We are not what we think we are. I mentioned a lady in the first study that changed but remained the same. God made her more than she thought she was. Jesus says we must die to self. The world says no! Why does God not love who I have become? It's because you're acting more like the chaff than the wheat. Chaff does serve a purpose. Yet, like a butterfly we are more than were first appear.

Ephesians 3:20 *“Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.”*

The verses below in Daniel sum up the chaff. Much of who we think we are needs to be tossed out. Driven into the wind. Maybe even consumed with fire. I burned a bunch of my old life when I became a Christian. Some things I saved for a time. One day I noticed that there was dust on things. Clearly, they were not important anymore. I sold music and tossed out former things. I don't treasure much from my past life. My new life in God has been amazing. I am not chaff. I want to be wheat. Do you? Or, will you take your chances on Gods threshing floor in the last days?

Daniel 2:35 *“Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were all broken in pieces and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors, and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.”*