

Matthew 13:24-43 – The King’s Harvest!

Scriptures:

24 Another parable ~~He~~ put forth to them,

Notes:
2nd of 8 parables.

saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man

who sowed good seed in his field;

Scriptures:

25 but while men slept, his enemy came and

Notes:
'tares' - darnell

sowed tares among the wheat and went his

way.

Scriptures:

26 But when the grain had sprouted and

produced a crop, then the tares also

G2215 -

appeared.

Notes:

The problem with this weed was that it was almost indistinguishable from the wheat. It is only in the later state of development that they can be identified. Once the tare had developed to the point where it could be identified, its roots would be entangled in the roots of the wheat. Pulling the tare would harm the wheat. Even though it was not ideal for the growth of the wheat to leave the tare, it would be more harmful to try to remove them.

Scriptures:

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?'

Notes:

Scriptures:

28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.'

Notes:

The servants said to him, 'Do you want us

then to go and gather them up?'

Scriptures:

29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up

Notes:

Before the time of the harvest, we are incapable of telling the wheat from the tares. We must allow them both to grow up until then. This also means that some people may look like tares but are actually wheat.

the tares you also uproot the wheat with

"The Lord was telling His servants that it would be unsafe and unwise to make premature judgment in regard to people." (Powell, 1986) page 253

them.

What this means for us in the church is that we should treat everyone with love and patience.

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." ' ' "

Scriptures:

31 Another parable ⁺He put forth to them,

saying: "The kingdom of ⁺heaven is like a ⁺

mustard seed, which a man ⁺took and sowed

in ⁺his field,

Notes:
3rd of 8 parables.

The mustard seed is very small, but, in the right soil, can grow quite large – maybe seven or eight feet tall or taller. It is also a popular food of small birds in the area.

One interpretation of this parable is that the church started out very small but would grow to be quite large and be a place of comfort, safety, and nourishment to those who sought its shelter.

³² which indeed is the least of all the seeds;

but when it is grown it is greater than the

herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds

of the air come and nest in its branches.”

Scriptures:

Leviticus 7:13-14 - Besides the cakes, as his offering he shall offer leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offering. 14 And from it he shall offer one cake from each offering as a heave offering to the LORD. It shall belong to the priest who sprinkles the blood of the peace offering.

Leviticus 23:17 - You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to the LORD.

33 Another parable ^{He} spoke to them: "The

^{kingdom} of heaven is like leaven, which a

^{woman} took and hid in three measures of

meal till it was all leavened."

Notes:

4th of 8 parables.

Leaven is used to improve the taste of bread. As leaven ferments in the dough, it creates gas bubbles that make bread soft and spongy. Unleavened bread is hard and unappetizing.

Leaven or yeast is often associated with evil in the Bible but not always ([Leviticus 23:17](#)).

An interpretation of this parable is that the gospel acts as leaven in people and in the world. It takes dry unappealing people and transforms them into saints.

The work of the gospel is often hidden in a person's heart. The gospel, the Word of God, slowly, silently, works its way through all parts of someone's life.

God's Word has the power to transform the driest of hearts into something beautiful and refreshing to those who experience it. If your faith is feeling a little dry, dive into God's Word, get into a Bible study, seek God and you will find Him and be refreshed yourself.

Scriptures:

34 All these things Jesus spoke to the

Notes:

multitude in parables; and without a parable

He did not speak to them,

Scriptures:
Psalm 78:2 - I will open
my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings of
old...

35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken

Notes:

by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth

in parables; I will utter things kept secret from

the foundation of the world."

Scriptures:

Matthew 13:10-11 - And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and

went into the house. And His disciples came

to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of

the tares of the field."

Notes:

Jesus had more things to teach, but He chose to take a break.

Jesus had told them they were given the ability to understand (Matthew 13:10-11). That doesn't mean they would automatically understand everything Jesus said. It is an expression of faith to ask God to help you understand.

Scriptures:

37 [†] He answered and said to them: ¹³ “He who

sows the good seed is the Son of [†] Man.

Notes:

The main message of this parable is that good and evil will always be found together in the professing church until Jesus comes back for us. No matter how diligent we might try to be to verify everyone’s faith, there will be tares in the church. They might be sitting next to you during the service. They might be serving in ministry somewhere.

Even Jesus had a weed among the Twelve – Judas Iscariot.

Scriptures:

1 John 2:1-2 - My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

38 The field is the world, the good seeds are

[♂] the sons of the kingdom, [♂] but the tares are the

sons of the wicked [♂] one.

Notes:

‘good seeds’ = born-again believers.
‘tares’ = unrepentant sinners.
‘wicked one’ = the Devil.

‘the world’ – The gospel was not to be limited to Israel and the Jews. The gospel is for the whole world (1 John 2:1-2).

Scriptures:

39 The enemy who sowed them is the

Notes:

'the harvest' is a day of reckoning for unrepentant sinners.

'end of the age' – The Second Coming of Christ to this world.

devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and

the reapers are the angels.

Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 5:4-5 - In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, I deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and

Notes:

Jesus tells us to leave the pulling of the weeds to the angels in the end of the age. If we are too aggressive pulling the weeds, we risk pulling up the wheat as well. And, it is always too soon to write someone off as a tare forever.

"Those who are weeds today may be wheat tomorrow." Augustine (Ryle, 1993) page 107

burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of

this age.

There are some who believe it is the mission of the church to convert the whole world to Christianity and then Jesus will return to establish His kingdom. This clearly tells us that is not how it will work. There will always be people who reject and resist the gospel and the Kingdom of God will only come when Jesus returns.

We do have a responsibility to watch out for wolves. The wolf seeks to lead the flock away and devour it. This is often done through the introduction of false doctrine.

We must also respond to those who willfully disobey God's clear teaching. Paul had to deal with a man having an affair with his mother-in-law (1 Corinthians 5:4-5).

Scriptures:

41 The Son of Man will send out His

Notes:

'lawlessness' – living as if there is no law or the law doesn't apply to you.

Jesus will separate the wheat from the weeds. He knows perfectly those who are His and those who are not. In the parable of the ten virgins, to the five He said He never knew them.

angels, and they will gather out of His

kingdom all things that offend, and those

G4625 – implies opposition.

who practice lawlessness,

G4160 -

G458 -

Notes:

Jesus is being very clear – the consequence for not being one of His people is suffering and torment forever.

Scriptures:

Mark 9:43 - If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched...

42 and will cast them into the furnace of

'furnace of fire' – It is hard to imagine a more horrible fate than to be burned alive. The only hope a person in the fire would have is the escape of death. In the fire Jesus is talking about there is no hope (Mark 9:43).

fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of

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G1030 - grinding the teeth, a sign of torment and anguish, possibly anger.

teeth.

This is one of the reasons why we teach through the Bible, through the easy things and the hard things, through the encouraging things and the challenging things. Only God knows the state the heart of every person who listens or watches these messages, we teach as though there are both wheat and tares in the congregation. We want those are not God's people to know God loves them, but we also want them to know that they can't hide among the wheat and hope to escape the judgment that is coming to them. We want them to stop being a tare and be transformed through the power of God's forgiveness as wheat – one of His children.

Scriptures:
Colossians 3:4 - When
Christ who is our life
appears, then you also will
appear with Him in glory.

43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the

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sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who

has ears to hear, let him hear!

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Notes:

The righteous must tolerate the wicked until Christ comes back. One of the things that helps us to do that is the hope we have of being in heaven with Jesus.

The world sees little beauty in the church. But once the wicked are removed from it, it will shine like the sun in brilliance (Colossians 3:4).

'ears to hear' – Jesus is speaking to His disciples. These are the men He will entrust with the gospel and commission to take that gospel to the whole world.

There are some who teach a gentler, milder, more palatable message. Jesus is clearly stating that people need to hear both sides of the matter of salvation.

"They were to contrast evil with goodness; religion and righteousness; sanctimoniousness and salvation; hell with heaven. They were entrusted with this message." (Powell, 1986) page 259