

The Parable of the Wheat and Tares (Weeds)



Matthew 13:24-30

○ **Review Lessons Taught:**

- **In Matthew 13:10, Jesus began using parables to teach about the kingdom of heaven. His disciples noticed the change in His method of teaching, and asked Him the question, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”**
- **According to Mark 4:34, “Jesus did not say anything to them without using a parable and when He was alone with His disciples He would explain what He meant.”**
- **Purpose: to assist us in growing in our understanding by exploring these divine truths found in Christ’s teaching. To teach us what they mean and how they relate to our present and future life in Christ Jesus.**
- **Goal: to allow the Holy Spirit speak to our hearts and draw us closer to Jesus Christ.**
- **Spiritual Principles: Authority, Organization, Obedience, Stewardship, Agreement, Grace, Faith, Unconditional Love**

A. What is a parable?

- 1. It is a simple yet powerful story that Jesus used to illustrate a great truth. Jesus used parables to help His followers understand spiritual truth.**
- 2. The word “parable” is taken from the Greek word that literally means to cast or throw alongside.**
- 3. A parable is thrown in to illustrate something abstract.**
- 4. Parables were stories that were “cast or thrown” alongside a truth in order to illustrate a divine truth.**
- 5. Parables were also used as teaching aids and can be thought of as extended analogies to draw comparisons between the natural world and the spiritual world.**
- 6. There are at least 39 Parables that are recorded in between the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. There are no parables found in the Gospel of John.**

B. Why did Jesus speak in Parables? Jesus spoke in parables for several reasons. (Matthew 13:10-17)

- 1. Jesus spoke parables to simplify His message to help His followers to understand what He was saying and apply what they were being taught to their lives.**
- 2. Jesus spoke in parables to effectively communicate His message and accomplish His mission, regardless their age, culture or language.**
- 3. To reveal the significant role of the Holy Spirit in their lives and the life of every true believer. (Acts 1:8)**
- 4. To both reveal and hide the mysteries or secrets of God's kingdom. (Matthew 13:10-11)**
 - The "mysteries or secrets" of the kingdom refer to those things that were hidden in the Old Testament and are revealed in the New Testament in the coming of Jesus Christ.**

C. Jesus began by using the Parable of the Sower to teach about the kingdom of God. (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23)

- The parable of the Sower is centered around a farming illustration. The people could relate easily to this parable due to their agricultural background.**
 - Jesus uses this parable to describe a farmer or sower who went out and scattered seed that fell on various kinds of soils (hard, stony, thorns, good ground).**
 - Jesus uses three symbols in this parable: The Sower (farmer), the Seed, and the Soil. (vs. 3-9)**
- 1. The Sower (farmer) represents Jesus Christ.**
 - 2. The Seed represents the Word of God or the Word of the kingdom. (vs. 3-8)**
 - 3. The Seeds that were sown fell on different types of soil. Which could only mean that the results would be different.**
 - 4. The Soil (the ground) represents the hearts of the individual hearer or the spiritual state of those in the world. (vs. 19-23)**
 - 5. The Sower (farmer) – "But others seeds fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." (vs. 8, 23)**

- Jesus makes it clear that the condition of their heart will determine the Word's effectiveness in a person's life. (vs. 23)

The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares (Weeds)

Matthew 13:24-30

- A. Jesus gives another parable comparing the kingdom of heaven to a man who sowed good seed in his field, while he slept his enemy came in and sowed tares (weeds) among the wheat. (vs. 24-25, 37-39)
- There are Three lessons that can we learn from this parable.
1. Jesus Christ's mission and message.
 - A man sows good seed. The man is Jesus Christ.
 - (vs. 37) – "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man."
 - Jesus Christ's mission was to give His life as a ransom for many. He came to seek and to save that which is lost. (Matthew 20:28, Luke 19:10)
 - Jesus Christ gives His mission and message to those in the synagogue as He taught on the Sabbath (Luke 4:14-21).
 - (vs. 18) – Jesus declares that the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him.
 - (Luke 3:21-22) – When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. And from that moment, Jesus had been filled with the Holy Spirit and ministered by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Jesus was establishing His claim of four things:
 1. He was ministering by the power and influence of the Holy Spirit.
 2. He was the True Messiah – "the Lord's Anointed One." The Christ.
 3. He was given a message and mission by His Heavenly Father.
 4. He was sent to preach the gospel the good news of God's kingdom:
 - To the poor.
 - To the brokenhearted.
 - To the captives.
 - To the spiritually blind.
 - To the oppressed.

- To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor or the Year of Jubilee.
 - (Leviticus 25:8-12) – God instructed Israel every fifty years to set slaves free and release people from their debts, also they were to allow the people to return to their family. It represents the freedom and liberation of God's people.
 - God addresses the sin issues that plagued all humanity by sending His Son Jesus Christ to atone for the sin of the world (John 3:16).
 - It is a reminder of God's love, grace, mercy and forgiveness to all who receives Christ's wonderful gift of salvation.
 - It is a celebration for those who lives have been spiritually transformed, spiritually set free and eternally changed forever because of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - The gospel of Jesus Christ has the power to change, deliver and set free all who are bound and held captive by the destruction of sin (Colossians 1:13-14, John 8:34-36).
 - The gospel of Jesus Christ gives us as believers the message of Jesus Christ's love, hope and forgiveness that we must carry to a lost and dying people.
2. The good seed. The children of the kingdom of God. These are the righteous men and women of God. These are true believers of Jesus Christ. (vs. 24, 38)
- Notice who sowed them and where they are sown?
 - a. They are sown by the Son of Man – Jesus Christ.
 - b. They are sown in His field. The "field" represents the world. The owner of the "field" the world – is Jesus Christ. (John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15-20, Hebrews 1:2, Psalms 24:1-2)
 - Jesus Christ is actively involved in the life of every true believer by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Jesus Christ sows or scatters His righteous seed (the believer) into His field (the world).
 - b. The believers are Christ's representatives and ambassadors in the world.
 - The believer is the light of a dark and dying world. (Matthew 5:13-16)

- The believer has been sent by Jesus Christ to reach a harvest that ripe and ready to be saved. (Matthew 9:37-38, John 4:34-38, Ephesians 2:8-10)
- The believer is saved by Jesus Christ to impact the “field” (the world) around them. (Acts 1:8, Romans 5:8-11, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20)
- c. The good seed (the righteous, or the believer) is sown by the Son of Man (Jesus Christ) for the purpose of bearing fruit. There are three things we must keep in mind:
 1. The good seed (the righteous or believer) cannot be made righteous apart from the Sower – Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:20-26, Romans 8:1-4, Ephesians 2:8-9)
 2. The good seed (the righteous or believer) will be known by the fruit it bears. (Matthew 7:17-23, Galatians 5:19-23, John 15:5,8,16)
 3. The good seed (the righteous or believer) knows that the Sower (Jesus Christ) will be the one who will judge every man or woman’s work in the field (world). (Philippians 2:9-11, 2 Corinthians 5:10, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15)
 4. An enemy of Jesus Christ known as Satan (the devil) sowed tares (weeds) – represents the wicked (the children of the devil or the wicked one) and where did he sow them – in the same field (the world). (vs. 25-26)
- God’s Word describes in detail who Satan is, his nature, his acts, and his future.
- Satan is not the believer’s friend. He cannot be trusted. He is a liar (deceiver) and a liar from the very beginning.
- Satan’s work is to destroy the work of God by destroying the people God created, redeemed and is preparing for eternal resting with Him forever.
- a. Satan tries to disguise his work. Let’s take a closer look at Scripture in the Bible to learn more about Satan and his deceptive work.
 - He a master at presenting you with a package that looks really good on the outside but on the inside, it is filled with false hope and false promises, that lead to sin and destruction. (John 8:44)
 - (1 John 3:8) – John writes, “He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning.

- Satan is a created being, who was kicked out heaven by God due to pride (Isaiah 14:12-15).
 - In Genesis 1:1-2, we see the chaos and darkness that Satan causes as he plummeted to the earth.
 - In Genesis 3:1, Satan appears before Eve and Adam, in the form of a serpent. He is described as more cunning than any of the beast of the field.
 - (2 Corinthians 11:13-15) – Paul reminds us that Satan has false apostles, ministers (deceitful workers), that have transformed themselves as apostles of Christ. Paul says, “Satan himself transforms himself into angel of light.” Paul says, “It’s not surprising that even his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness.”
 - (John 10:10) – Jesus describes him as a thief that comes to steal, kill, and destroy; But I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly.
 - (2 Corinthians 4:4) – Paul teaches us that Satan is the god of this world who has blinded the minds of those who do not believe.
 - (Ephesians 6:12) Paul reminds us that we are in a spiritual battle against a known enemy (Satan) and it’s not against flesh and blood (humans), but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
- b. Satan operates under the cover of darkness and deception. How could such a thing happen and not be detected? (vs. 25)
1. Jesus says, the enemy (Satan) came while men were sleeping and sowed tares (weeds of wickedness, or wicked people) among the wheat (the good seed, or the righteous, believer), and then went of his way. (vs. 25)
 2. Unfortunately, the church is still sleeping. When I talk about the church, I’m not talking about this church building, but every believer of Jesus Christ.
 3. Here we find Jesus addressing an unfortunate problem that continues among saints. What did Jesus mean that the men were sleeping?

- a. They were unconscious or unconcerned with the work of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. They were too busy and undisciplined. (2 Timothy 2:1-6)
 - 2. They were too distracted, preoccupied, unaware and enticed. (1 John 2:15-17, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, James 1:12-15)
 - 3. They should have been alert, aware, sensitive to the leading voice and direction of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:14, John 14:17, 25, 16:13)

- B. Satan sows in the same field as the Lord Jesus Christ. (vs. 26-27)
 - 1. The bad seeds (wicked people, unrighteous, unbelievers) are sown among the good seeds (the righteous, believers) in the field (the world).
 - Satan tries to emulate or imitate everything that God does. We typically call that a counterfeiter.
 - a. There are men and women not just in the world, but right up in the church that have been sown not by Jesus Christ, but by the enemy (Satan).
 - b. They present themselves as followers of Christ (I'm a Christian), but only in words not deeds or action.
 - c. They present themselves as being spiritual believers but they're simply nothing more than a carnal (fleshly), worldly, and religious person. (Romans 8:6-8, 1Corinthians 3:3, Ephesians 2:2, 1 John 2:16, Matthew 15:7-8)
 - d. They profess that they belong to God, but they are deceived. (1 John 3:7-10, 1 John 5:1-8)

- C. Satan is an enemy of Jesus Christ, to the world, and to all that is good.
 - 1. He will make every attempt to rob mankind of their peace, joy, and rest. He brings nothing but fear, guilt, shame, confusion, and division to the lives of mankind. (John 14:27, Matthew 11:28-30)
 - 2. He would rather you be entertained, remain an immature Christian, and unskilled, untrained and undisciplined in the Word and in prayer. (1Corinthians 3:1-3 2 Timothy 4:1-5)

3. He will make every attempt to distract mankind from receiving Jesus Christ and fulfilling their God-given purpose here on earth. (Mark 8:34-38)

D. Who should be held accountable and responsible for the state of the field (the world)? Notice the owner's response to his servant. (vs. 27-30)

- The Owner's (Jesus Christ) response to His servants (the righteous, true believers) is worth taking note of. Four Things we need to note:
 1. The Owner (Jesus Christ), recognizes the work of the enemy (Satan). The servants asked the question, "Do you want us to gather them up? (vs. 28)
 2. The Owner (Jesus Christ) recognizes that both the wheat (the righteous) and the tares (wicked, unrighteous) were mixed together in the field (the world). (vs. 28)
 3. The Owner (Jesus Christ) tells His servants (the righteous, true believers), "No, do not uproot the tares (the weeds, wicked, unrighteous), lest you uproot the wheat (the righteous). (vs. 29)
 4. The Owner (Jesus Christ) say, "Let them grow together until harvest." Be patient, be gracious, don't judge too quickly or count people out. But consider God's love for mankind and wanting people to be saved. (Mark 2:17, Luke 19:10, 2 Peter 3:1-9)
 5. The Owner (Jesus Christ) will be the Judge. The day of harvesting will come and Christ will be the True Judge of the righteous and unrighteous. (1Corinthians 4:5, James 4:12)