

THEME: THE PARABLES OF JESUS

TOPIC: THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND TARES

TEXT: MATTHEW 13:24-30; 36-43

INTRODUCTION

In "**The Parable of the Sower**", we learned that not all people react to the Word of the kingdom in the same way:

- Only those with good and noble hearts, who receive the Word with patience and keep it, will bear the intended fruit in their lives. Thus the "mysteries of the kingdom of heaven" will be received only by some, and not all.

This truth was illustrated further when Jesus taught "**The Parable Of The Wheat and Tares**".....Recorded only by Matthew.

- b. Jesus' purpose is clearly to teach principles related to "the kingdom of heaven"
- Therefore Jesus intends to reveal principles related to the "rule of God" as it would soon be manifested in the Person of His Son

Like "**The Parable of the Sower**", this parable is one of the few in which we have Jesus' own explanation, given in response to the disciples' inquiry **Matthew 13:36**.

In this study, we shall focus on Jesus' explanation of the parable, and then draw some truths from it...

I. THE PARABLE EXPLAINED – Matthew 13:37-43.

A. IN ANSWER TO THE DISCIPLES' REQUEST, JESUS IDENTIFIES...

1. THE SOWER - "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man"

a. As in Christ, who in His preaching went about proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom - **Matthew 4:23**

b. Who is identified in Daniel's vision as one who received a kingdom – **Daniel 7:13-14**.

c. Who after His ascension claimed to have received such authority – **Matthew 28:18**

2. THE FIELD - "The field is the world"

a. Into which the Son of Man came to sow the seed.

b. Over which the Son of Man now exercises His authority, as in His kingship – **1 Peter 3:22; Revelation 1:5**

3. THE GOOD SEED (WHEAT) - "The good seeds are the sons of the Kingdom"

a. Those who have gladly accepted Jesus as their Lord and King, submitting to Him freely

b. As in His disciples, who observe all that He commands - **Matthew 28:19-20**

c. When we compare this with "The Parable of the Sower", we come up with slightly mixed metaphors...

i. The disciples are those who constitute the "**good soil**", in which the seed has been sown (The Parable of the Sower).

ii. But in The Parable of the Wheat and Tares, the disciples are the "**good seed**" themselves

d. Thus, when one receives the "seed" of the kingdom (the Word of God), they become "good seed" (a son of the kingdom).

4. THE TARES - "The tares are the sons of the wicked one"

a. Those who were later defined as they that....

i. Offend

ii. Practice lawlessness – **Matthew 13:41**

b. Though within the realm of the Lord's reign (for the Lord will later gather them out of His kingdom), they clearly are not submitting to the Lord's authority!

c. Their actions reveal that they are really "sons of the wicked one"!

5. THE ENEMY - "The enemy who sowed them is the devil"

a. Who tried to tempt Christ and failed – **Matthew 4:1-11**

b. Who now tries to destroy the efforts of Christ to save souls and enlarge the influence of His kingly rule.

6. THE HARVEST - "The harvest is the end of the age"

a. That "age" in which...

i. The gospel of the kingdom is being preached

ii. People who receive the gospel can become the "sons of the kingdom" as in, the present gospel dispensation – **Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9**

b. An "age" that will end with a great "harvest", identified elsewhere as the glorious coming and appearance of our Lord – **1 Timothy 6:14-15**.

7. THE REAPERS - "The reapers are the angels"

a. Angels will accompany Christ when He comes again – **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**

b. They will separate the wicked from among the just – **Matthew 13:49**

B. JESUS STRESSES THE MAIN POINTS OF THE PARABLE – Matthew 13:40-43

1. In verse 40...

a. The problem of the "tares" will not be fully addressed until the "harvest"

b. This is done out of consideration for the "good seed" (**Matthew 13:29**)

2. In verse 41...

a. It is at the end of the age that the Son of Man will finally resolve this problem

b. With His angels He will "gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness" (as in the sons of the wicked one)

3. In verse 42...

a. Those who are gathered out of His kingdom will be properly dealt with!

b. They will be cast into "the furnace of fire", where there will be "wailing and gnashing of teeth!"

4. In verse 43...

a. The blessedness of the "righteous" (the good seed, the son of the kingdom) is described

b. After the harvest they will "shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father"!

CONCLUSION

[Jesus ends His explanation of the parable with the same admonition that followed the telling of The Parable of the Sower by simply saying:

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear" – Matthew 13:9.

Do we therefore hear what Jesus is saying? Or are we dull of hearing and hard of heart? For those willing to listen, there are several truths to be gleaned from this parable as it relates to the kingdom of heaven, the church, and to our personal lives.....