

THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT & THE TARES



BEWARE OF THE COUNTERFEIT

THE PARABLE INTRODUCED:

MATTHEW 13:24-30

THE PARABLE INTERPRETED:

MATTHEW 13:37-43

INTRODUCTION

The main diet of the people mostly and sometimes only consisted of bread. Therefore, everyone appreciated and understood enough about wheat. Relating more to the experience of farmers, the Lord incorporates tares to effectively communicate a truth that He wants his hearers to understand. Tares looks like wheat in the early stages, but could only be distinguished from it when the ear appears. The fields were normally weeded in the spring, but if the weeds were discovered too late—as is the case here—it was too risky to uproot because the chances were that certain wheat would have been uprooted with it. So, the Master instructs to let them grow together, for there will come a

time where the tares will be uprooted and justly dealt with without affecting the harvest of wheat.



The setting is the Sea of Galilee.

The audience is a mixed multitude.

This gathering is said to be one of the greatest multitudes in number that ever gathered together to hear the Lord speak.

“(Matthew 13:1-3) **1** The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. **2** And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. **3** And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying...”

The parable of “The Wheat and The Tares” is mentioned only in the Gospel of Matthew. It is one of the parables that Jesus interprets for His disciples. Therefore, there is no question concerning the understanding of the parable.

1. The man is Christ (Mat_13:37).

2. The seed is believers, children of the kingdom (Mat_13:38).

3. The field is the world (Mat_13:38).

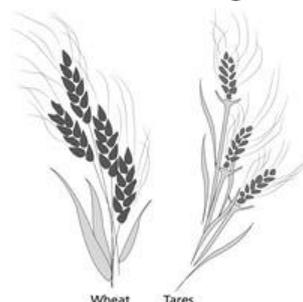
4. The enemy is Satan (Mat_13:39).

5. The tares are the children of the devil (Mat_13:38).

6. The reapers are angels (Mat_13:39).

7. The harvest is the end of the age.

Mat_13:39).



THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND THE TARES

THE DETAIL (Matt 13:24-30)	THE DEFINITION (Matt 13:37-43)
A man which sowed good seed (v24a)	the Son of man (v37)
in his field (v24c)	the world (v38a)
good seed (v24b)	children of the kingdom (v38b)
tares (v27c)	children of the wicked one (v38c)
his enemy (v28a)	the devil (v39a)
the harvest (v30a)	end of the world (v39b)
reapers (v30b)	the angels (v39c)
the Householder (v27b)	The Son of man. The same verse shows use that it is the one who sowed the good seed which interpreted in verse 37 is the Son of man. (v37)
the servants (v27a)	It appears to be the children of the kingdom and not the angels, because in verse 30 he refers to the angels as reapers and not servants (v30b)
all things that offend, and them which do iniquity (v41,42)	the children of the wicked one. One in the same thing. Because these ones will be cast into the furnace of fire
furnace of fire (v42)	hell or the lake of fire. Either way, anyone in hell will inevitably be cast into the lake of fire at/after the Great White Throne Judgment, at the end of Millennial Kingdom
the righteous (v43)	the children of the kingdom. Opposite to them that do iniquity. (v43)
my barn (v30)	the Millennial Kingdom (v43)

1.SPAN (PLACE)

- The tare and wheat have been planted in the same field locally. This truth is applied globally. All over the world you will find that wherever there is ‘wheat’, there are ‘tares’. This parable is not necessarily talking about a local church but rather the kingdom of heaven on a worldwide scale.

A. LOCAL

- In that in every local city or country you will never find only truly born-again people and no other ‘kind’ of Christian or those that profess to be children of the king/kingdom. The sad reality is that you will always find a different kind of Christian(ity) in the same city or country.

B. GLOBAL

- In that the sad reality that there is never only one kind of Christian(ity) is the case all over the world. You may know of a remnant of God’s true people in a certain place in the world, and along with them there are other professing ‘children of the kingdom’ that are in fact children of the wicked one.
- Wherever Christ has sown the ‘good seed’, you can be sure that satan will come along and sow a counterfeit with it. The enemy cannot touch the ‘good seed’, so he imitates it instead in an attempt to bring confusion and be a hinderance. This is happening all over the world!



2.SOWERS (PROPAGATORS)

A. SON OF MAN

- This is referring to the Lord Jesus Christ. Over 85 in the New Testament is the Lord referred to as the ‘Son of man’. All things were created by Him and for Him (Col. 1:16,17).

B. SATAN

- The devil goes by many names and titles. To list a few:
 - Satan means ‘adversary’ (Mark 1:13).
 - Devil meaning ‘accuser’ (Matthew 13:39)
 - Lucifer meaning ‘morning star’ (Isaiah 14:12)
 - Beelzebub meaning ‘the prince of the devils’ (Matthew 12:24)
 - god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4)
 - prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2)
 - serpent (Genesis 3:1)
 - dragon (Revelation 12:9; 20:2)
 - Belial (2 Corinthians 6:15)
 - Wicked one (Matthew 13:19)
- The bottom line is that the devil and Jesus are enemies. They are not in agreement with each other. This is why there is warning against the devil. Hence why James was so bold in declaring that if any man “will be a friend of the world (he) is the enemy of God.” (James 4:4) because the devil is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4); and as we’ve already established, Jesus and the devil are not friends but enemies.

- The devil is not to be underestimated or meddled with. We can and are to resist him he will flee from us (James 4:7), but not in our own strength and ability; for even Michael the archangel himself dare not take the devil on by saying “The Lord rebuke thee.” (Jude 1:9). Nevertheless, take heed to warning given by the Holy Ghost through Peter, who was well acquainted of what t’s like to be sifted of the devil.

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 1Pe

5:9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

3. SEPARATION (PUNISHMENT)



SEVERING AND SENTENCING

HARVEST TIME WHEN THE REAPERS WILL BE SENT FORTH.

VIEW 1

SOME SAY THAT THE SEVERING AND SENTENCING TAKES PLACE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TRIBULATION FOR THE REASON THAT THE CHURCH IS RAPTURED AND ALL THAT IS REMAINING ARE THE NON-BELIEVERES. HOWEVER, THIS VIEW IS LACKING BECAUSE THE ‘TARES’ ARE NOT GATHERED UP TO BE BURNT. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

VIEW 2

SOME SAY THAT THIS SEVERING AND SENTENCING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CLOSE OF TRIBULATION WHEN THE LORD JESUS SHALL COME WITH HIS ANGELS.

VIEW 3

SOME SAY THAT THE SEVERING AND SENTENCING TAKES PLACE AT THE CLOSE OF THE MILLENNIUM AT THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT (Revelation 20:11-15) THIS VIEW ALSO HOLDS WEIGHT BECAUSE OF THE PHRASE IN MATTHEW 13:40 SAYING THAT “THE HARVEST IS THE END OF THE WORLD”, WHICH IS OFTEN UNDERSTOOD TO BE THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM.

- I personally believe that view 2 seems to be more consistent when compared with other certain Scriptures. Consider the following details given in the Scriptures:

2Th 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; 2Th 1:4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: 2Th 1:5 *Which is* a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that

ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: 2Th 1:6 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;**2Th 1:7** And to you who are troubled rest with us, *when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,* 2Th 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 2Th 1:9 *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;* 2Th 1:10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

When we keep in consideration the fact that the reapers are the angels, it is only at Christ's return to earth that His angels will come with Him. This will take place at the end of the Tribulation. Notice furthermore:

Mat 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: **Mat 24:30** And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Mat 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Mat 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: **Mat 25:32a** And before him shall be gathered all nations:

This "judgment" will take place before/at the commencement of Christ's Millennial reign on earth. This "judgment" is different to the Judgment Seat of Christ and is different to the Great White Throne Judgment. This 'judgment' is referred to as "The Judgment of the

Nations”. Where all nations, worldwide, will be brought before Christ the King to be separated from them that are truly His and are still alive.

Mat 25:32b and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats: Mat 25:33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Mat 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: Mat 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

4. SEEDS (PURITY)



Some say that the tares are non-believers all together—muslim, or

However the illustration of the wheat and the tares is generally understood that it as a more narrow range, extending to those that profess to be children of the King/kingdom. The comparison that Jesus is making is between a tare and a wheat. A tare looks like a wheat, and was permitted to ‘grow together’ with the wheat, but it was never a wheat to begin with.

hindu, or atheist, etc...—but the symbol the Lord has given us seems to indicate that it’s a lot ‘closer to home’ than any non-believer or false religion. The reason that many false religions profess to know “God” may hold some credibility to being incorporated within the sphere of the kingdom of heaven.

A. GOOD SEED



- The wheat is referred to as the ‘good seed’. The good seed in this parable is not the Word of God but the children of God/children of the kingdom. You could say it was the seed that came good.

“In this parable, the good seed is not the Word of God. It represents people converted through trusting the Word.”
(Warren Wiersbe)

- Some draw a connection with the fourth soil of the parable of the sower/four soils. It is suggested that the parable of the wheat and the tares is connected to the previous parable and that each parable is somewhat progressive toward the preceding parable(s). However, it is hard to draw a consistent progressive thread throughout the rest of the parables.

B. CORRUPT SEED



The corrupt seed is represented by the tares. The tares are symbolic of the children of the wicked one. They are mingled in the same field as the wheat but are of no profit or benefit, only a hinderance, which is what the enemy, the devil, intends to do. The illustration is well understood amongst the agricultural people group and those are farmers are well acquainted with an enemy sowing tares. It is said that if someone sought revenge, or simply sought to cause trouble from jealousy or envy, or any other reason, one of the ways they will do that is wait till nightfall and make sure no one was around, then they would go and scatter corrupt seeds amongst their wheat fields in order to spoil or hinder the harvest. The Lord is bringing to their attention that there is a present enemy who is currently doing that. That enemy is the devil.

“Satan cannot uproot the plants (true Christians), so he plants counterfeit Christians in their midst...We must beware of Satan’s counterfeits. He has counterfeit Christians (2Co 11:26) who believe a counterfeit Gospel (Gal 1:6-9). He encourages a counterfeit righteousness (Rom 10:1-3), and even has a counterfeit church (Rev 2:9). At the end of the age, he will produce a counterfeit Christ (2Th 2:1-12)...We must

also stay awake to make sure that Satan's ministers do not get into the true fellowship and do damage."

(Warren Weirsbe)

- i. The Lord may have said not to uproot the tares on a global scale, but they were identified and marked out as tares. In present application, the Lord may not want us to go around and stop the children of the wicked one around the world, but we are responsible to mark them out.

Rom 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, **mark them** which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Rom 16:18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Tit 3:10 A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;

Tit 3:11 Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

2John 1:10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, **neither bid him God speed**: 2John 1:11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

"Spiritual unity among true Christians is one thing, but religious uniformity among mere professing Christians is quite another."

(Warren Weirsbe)

- ii. The parable is speaking about the kingdom of heaven on a global scale. It would be a mis-application of Scripture to say that God does not want us to deal with false

practice and false doctrine within the local assembly/church. (2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:9-16; Revelation 2-3)

C. IDENTIFYING THE CORRUPT SEED



a. They are pretenders

Mat 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Mat 7:16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Mat 7:17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. Mat 7:18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Mat 7:19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Mat 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

b. They are professors not possessors

Mat 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which

is in heaven. Mat 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? Mat 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

c. They are persuasive

2Co 11:13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 2Co 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 2Co 11:15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

2Pe 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2Pe 2:2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 2Pe 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. **2Pe 2:12** But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; 2Pe 2:13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, *as* they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots *they are* and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; 2Pe 2:14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

d. They are perverters:

Of the Gospel

Gal 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Gal 1:7 Which is not

another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. Gal 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. Gal 1:9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Of Grace

Jud 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

“They twist Christian liberty into license, and pervert freedom to serve into freedom to sin.”

(William Mac Donald)

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Tit 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Of Godliness

1Ti 6:2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise *them*, because they are brethren; but rather do *them* service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort. 1Ti 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; 1Ti 6:4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, 1Ti 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. 1Ti 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 1Ti 6:7 For we

brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. 1Ti 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

e. They are persistent

Mat 23:15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

f. They are powerless

2Ti 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2Ti 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 2Ti 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 2Ti 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; **2Ti 3:5** Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Act 19:13 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. Act 19:14 And there were seven sons of *one* Sceva, a Jew, *and* chief of the priests, which did so. Act 19:15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? Act 19:16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. Act 19:17 And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

BUT THE REAPERS ARE COMING!