

## Parables of Jesus part 6

### *Various Scriptures*

*“Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables, and he did not tell them anything without a parable, so that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled: I will open my mouth in parables; I will declare things kept secret from the foundation of the world.” -Matthew 13:34-35*

**When the Bible mentions the kingdom of heaven, would you say it is speaking of it as in the world today, or as a distant destination where we go after the final judgement? Luke 17:21; Matthew 7:21**

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It is important to remember the kingdom of heaven is not like an earthly kingdom with geographical boundaries. Instead, it begins with the work of God’s spirit in people’s \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_. So the kingdom of God is a spiritual realm where God rules and where we share in His eternal life. Our job then as fellow believers and servants of God is to promote His kingdom agenda in the natural realm.

### **The Parable of the Wheat and Tares: Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43**

**Context:** Jesus continues to speak to the crowds along the shores. This is the beginning of an ongoing discussion about the kingdom of heaven of heaven is like. In this parable Jesus wanted His disciples to know the kingdom of heaven is like a field.

### **The Sower’s Conundrum: Matthew 13:24-26**

Sower: Again we see the example of a farmer sowing seeds. By the time we get to the explanation, Jesus tells them plainly that He is the sower. The Son of Man;

**What does the phrase, “Son of Man” mean?**

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Daniel 7:13-14 ; He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all Man-kind; 1 Corinthians 15:47-49

The field: Many people/scholars have misinterpreted this passage by saying the field is the church but Jesus tells them plainly in Matthew 13:38 the field is the \_\_\_\_\_. Psalm 24:1

Good seeds: In the previous parable about the sower, what did the seeds represent? \_\_\_\_\_. Here the good seed are the children of

the kingdom. Those of us who have been saved and set apart to do God's will on earth are the good seeds. 1 John 3:9-10

*Weeds:* Those who proclaim to be of God but their actions deceive and suggest otherwise, these are the weeds. Matthew 7:15-20; Acts 13:9-10; 1 Timothy 4:1-2

\*Darnel was a type of weed that can hardly be distinguished from wheat until the head matures. In an agricultural setting sowing darnel in someone else's wheat field was a way for enemies to destroy someone's livelihood.

### **The Servant's Concern: Matthew 13:27-28**

Since they were both planted at the same time, the wheat and weeds grew up together. The Bible tells us the wheat produced \_\_\_\_\_ but the weeds did \_\_\_\_\_. The landowner's servants asked their master, where did the weeds come from and if he wanted them to pull them up?

**As you reflect on this, how concerned are you about the "weeds" that are growing in our world right now? Why are some ideas and people hard to distinguish from the real thing? What can we do about it?**

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*The enemy:* Satan is deceptive. He deceived two-thirds of the angels in heaven and he continues to deceive many in the world today into thinking we too can live in sin, and disobedience towards God and not be held accountable. In this parable, Satan is pictured as the enemy who has planted weeds in the farmer's wheat field trying to cause permanent damage to his crops. Likewise, he has infiltrated the world with false \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ who are growing up among the true crop. John 8:44

\*We as believer's and servants of God should always guard our hearts and be aware of Satan's antics and schemes.\* Ephesians 6:11

**What are some things Satan has planted into the hearts and minds of men and women that is deceiving the world today?**

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### **The Sower's Contentment: Matthew 13:29-30**

Notice the wisdom of the master: Keep in mind, they didn't have weed killer like we do today, but instead he had the wisdom to \_\_\_\_\_ until the harvest.

*The Harvest:* This is the end of the age. When Christ comes back to judge the world it will be a time when time comes to an end. He will come back for His glorious \_\_\_\_\_, the Church. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

**As we consider the contentment of the sower, what dangers lie in trying to label people as either “weeds” or “wheat”?**

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Notice whose responsibility it is to identify the weeds and deal with them:

*The Harvesters:* It is not me or you, but the angels of God who are responsible for carrying out God’s judgement:

The Master/Sower says in verse 30, At harvest time I’ll tell the reapers: Gather the weeds first and tie them in bundles to burn them, but collect the wheat in my barn.

\*Separating the wheat from the weeds; those who are guilty from those who are covered by the blood of Jesus. Matthew 13:41

\*Escorting the guilty and saved to their eternal destination. Matthew 13:42-43

In the end, the sinful will burn, but the righteous will shine like the \_\_\_\_\_ in their Father’s kingdom.

**What does this parable teach about divine patience and human accountability?**

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**In what ways can you shine like the sun in your contacts with unbelievers? Should we try to isolate ourselves from non-Christians? Why or why not?**

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**Be Positive  
Be Patient  
Be Persistent**