

Community Group Question Guide

Matthew 13:24-43

- 24 Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field.
- 25 “But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away.
- 26 “But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also.
- 27 “The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’
- 28 “And he said to them, ‘An enemy has done this!’ The slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’
- 29 “But he said, ‘No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them.
- 30 ‘Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”
- 31 He presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field;
- 32 and this is smaller than all *other* seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES.”
- 33 He spoke another parable to them, “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened.”
- 34 All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable.
- 35 *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:
- “I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES;
I WILL UTTER THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.”
- 36 Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.”
- 37 And He said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man,
- 38 and the field is the world; and *as for* the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil *one*;
- 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels.
- 40 “So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age.
- 41 “The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness,
- 42 and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- 43 “Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. ESV

Looking back to Jesus’ previous parable – about which soil is he now speaking?

What do you find unexpected / unusual about what is happening in this soil now?

Why do you think the landowner wants to wait until harvest to separate good from bad?

Matthew divides the parable & its explanation with mustard seed & leaven parables. Why do you think this is?

What high level / macro outline might you give this passage?

What do these parables teach us about the Kingdom of Heaven? About Jesus followers?

What command(s) is / are given by Jesus in this text?

How do this command help us to understand how to apply this text?

What do we “do” differently as a result?