

**"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"**

**Part 19**

**Matthew 13**

**Introduction:** In our study of the Kingdom we are looking at the prophetic parables of Matthew 13. These parables given by the Lord give us a detailed description of the dispensation which we live in today. The 1<sup>st</sup> century Jews had rejected the Kingdom and here in Matthew 13 Jesus is introducing what Christendom will be like from the Day of Pentecost until the return of Jesus Christ at the end of the Tribulation. These parables explain what the Christian life will be like while the King is away. They are really for the Jew who believed in Jesus Christ because he would want to know where the Kingdom was since the King had come. What was God doing now and where was the Kingdom? Two weeks ago in our study we looked at the Parable of the Sower and in that parable, we were able to see four different responses to the Seed that had been sown.

**1. The wayside hearer.**

This person heard the Gospel, and it made it into the heart but because they did not grasp on to it Satan came and stole away the Seed.

**2. The stoney ground hearer.**

This person receives the Seed quickly and with joy but when the trial of their faith comes it proves to not be saving faith. There was no repentance or brokenness when the Seed was received.

**3. The thorny ground hearer.**

This person is overloaded, and the cares of this life choke out the Seed and it bears no fruit.

**4. The fertile ground hearer.**

This person has had the soil of the heart loosened by the plow share of conviction. This heart is prepared to receive the Seed and therefore the Seed finds root and brings forth fruit.

Then at the end of the parable Jesus revealed what many see as a decline in fruit bearing as time goes on.

**Matthew 13:23**

<sup>23</sup> But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Now we have come to the second parable.

➤ **The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares**  
**Part 1**

**Notice Matthew 13:24-30**

Just like the Parable of the Sower we are not left to ourselves to interpret this parable.

**I. The Sower and the Seed**

**Notice Matthew 13:37**

The first thing we see as Jesus teaches this parable is that the Sower is the Son of man who is Jesus. We can also understand that He was the Sower in the first parable as well.

**Matthew 13:3**

<sup>3</sup> And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

**Notice Matthew 13:38a**

Here we see that the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the Kingdom. In the first parable the seed was the Word of the Kingdom.

**Matthew 13:19**

<sup>19</sup> When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

Is this then a problem? Not at all. The Seed of the Kingdom simply produced children of the Kingdom. The Seed produced like kind.

**II. The Tares**

**Notice Matthew 13:38**

We also see in this verse that the tares are the children of the wicked one. So let us pause here and see something that is very important. The first parable was the work of the Lord to sow the Seed of the Kingdom to produce children of the Kingdom. In this

parable we now see the work of Satan. He is a counterfeiter and therefore in this age he is going to counterfeit everything that Jesus does.

**Revelation 13:1-4**

*And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*

<sup>2</sup> *And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.*

<sup>3</sup> *And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.*

<sup>4</sup> *And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*

Here in Revelation 3 we see that Satan will counterfeit the resurrection. Let us notice a promise that God made to Israel.

**Ezekiel 34:23-25**

<sup>23</sup> *And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.*

<sup>24</sup> *And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it.*

<sup>25</sup> *And **I will make with them a covenant of peace**, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods.*

Now let us watch what the Anti-Christ will do.

**Daniel 9:26-27**

<sup>26</sup> *And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.*

<sup>27</sup> ***And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week**: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of*

*abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

The Anti-Christ will make a covenant of peace with MANY but not all of Israel. This too will be a counterfeit.

Now let us carry this thought back to the tares. The tares that the enemy sowed are known as "darnel". This is a degenerate wheat, and it so closely resembles the actual wheat that it is difficult to distinguish between the two. He did not sow thorns and briars because that would be easily detected. Pink tells us the "servants of the householder" are a type of the Apostles who were given great discernment. These tares are counterfeit Christians that have been planted alongside true believers and there are times when it is impossible to tell the two apart.

Let us also understand that in order to grow the tares the enemy has caused a false gospel to be sown. Let us remember what had happened at Galatia.

**Galatians 1:6-9**

<sup>6</sup> *I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:*

<sup>7</sup> *Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.*

<sup>8</sup> *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.*

Then there are the Words of 2 Corinthians 11.

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15**

<sup>13</sup> *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.*

<sup>14</sup> *And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*

<sup>15</sup> *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.*

Notice the words of Pink:

*"The principle agents of Satan are to be found, not in the drinking-houses or race-courses, etc., but in our seminaries and pulpits! These are not advocating lawlessness, but are preaching "righteousness", but "being ignorant of God's righteousness" they are going about to establish their own righteousness (Romans 10:3). It is a mingling of Law and Gospel, and multitudes are deceived thereby. Satan has an imitation church. Christ is now building His church, a church which will include all the saved of the church age. The Devil has caricatured this also. They profess the name of Christ, and hold some of the great fundamentals of His teaching. But artfully mingled with these are the deadly errors of Paganism. But so clever is the imitation, so subtly are the Scriptures appealed to in support of their pretensions, that millions are deluded by their soul-destroying system. "There is a way that seems right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12"*

### III. The Success of the Enemy

#### Notice Matthew 13:30

When the time comes for the tares to be gathered and burned there will be so many that they will need to be bundled. The wheat will be less, and it will just be gathered into the barn.

This should take our mind to the Sermon on the Mount.

#### Matthew 7:13-15, 21-23

<sup>13</sup> *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and **many** there be which go in thereat:*

<sup>14</sup> *Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and **few there be that find it.***

<sup>15</sup> *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

<sup>21</sup> *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.*

<sup>22</sup> ***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?*

<sup>23</sup> *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Getting back to the enemy's success, it is interesting to note that it did not matter where the enemy sowed his "false seed" it had no problem finding root. It will grow in rocky soil, and it will grow in thorny soil. The cares of the world do not choke it out. This false gospel will thrive anywhere.

**Notice Matthew 13:25**

We need to see that the enemy came in the dark and sowed the tares. The darkness is a picture of how true believers would soon become relaxed and neglect to be watchful. It started in the days of the early church.

**1 John 2:18-19**

*<sup>18</sup> Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*

*<sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.*

**Jude 1:3-4**

*<sup>3</sup> Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*

*<sup>4</sup> 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.*

**Conclusion:**

We will return to this parable next week. As we close let us be sure to ever be alert and watch for the Devil as he continues to sow the tares.

**1 Thessalonians 5:5-6**

*<sup>5</sup> Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

*<sup>6</sup> Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*