

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 9/27-28/2021 *Matthew Chapter 13:1-30*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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OPENING PRAYER

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: The Gospel According to Matthew! *Matthew Chapter 13:1-30*

The Parable of the Sower – (vs. 1-9); The Purpose of Parables – (vs. 10-17);

The Parable of the Sower Explained – (vs. 18-23); The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares – (vs. 24-30);

The Parable of the Tares Explained – (vs. 36-43)

Is the world getting better or is it getting worse?

Theme of Chapter 13 – The Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven show the direction of the Kingdom after Israel's rejection of it until the King returns to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth.

- **We have said, the Gospel of Matthew is probably the key Gospel to the Bible.** It is the open door to both the Old and the New Testaments. If that is true, then chapter 13 is the key to the Gospel of Matthew.

This makes chapter 13 all-important. It will give us a better understanding of what the Kingdom of Heaven is than any other place in the Book.

- **We call it the Mystery Parables Discourse, and it is one of the three major discourses** in the Gospel of Matthew. The **Sermon on the Mount** looks back to the past. It is the law for the land. The **Mystery Parables Discourse** reveals the condition of the Kingdom of Heaven in the world during the present age. The **Olivet Discourse** looks to the future, to the return of the King and the things beyond this age.
- **These Mystery Parables show the direction of the Kingdom after it had been offered and rejected by Israel.** They reveal what is going to take place between the time of Christ's rejection and the time when He returns to the earth as King. With these important parables our Lord covers the entire period between His rejection by Israel and His return to the earth to establish His Kingdom.

The Parable of the Sower

Mat 13:1 On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea.

Mat 13:2 And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

- **This act denotes a tremendous change that has taken place in His method.** He is now speaking of what will take place in the world until He returns as King. Great multitudes were gathered together to hear Him. He went into a boat and began to talk to them as they stood on the shore.

Mat 13:3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a (the) sower went out to sow.

- **Although our Lord gives several parables in this chapter, He interprets only two of them.** The parable of the sower and the parable of the wheat and tares. His interpretation is a guide to the symbolism in the other parables.. We need to be consistent and follow our Lord's interpretation.
- **The parable of the sower is the first of the Mystery Parables** and may be considered as the foundation for all of them. Sowing seed was a familiar sight in Israel. Most of the time they would break up the clods with a crude plow. Then the sower would go out and fling the seeds upon the earth. It still is a familiar sight in the rural areas.

Mat 13:4 And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.

- **The seed represents the Word of God. (Mat 13:19). The field symbolizes the world (Mat 13:38).** Notice that it is the world, not the church. We are talking about a world situation. Here is the church in the world, and outside there are multitudes of people who have not received Christ. The Word of God is given to this one, to that one, and to another. One accepts, another does not accept. Our business is to sow the seed, although not everyone will receive it.
- **Notice where the seed falls. It falls on four types of soil.** In three out of the four soils, the seeds do not produce fruit! They die! There was nothing wrong with the seed, but the soil was the problem. The condition of the soil (or of the receiving heart) is all important as far as the seed is concerned.
- **Let us look at our Lord's interpretation of the types of soil on which the seed fell.** In verse (Mat 13:4) He says that some of it fell by the wayside (hard hearts), and the birds (the wicked one) came and ate it up.
- **The wayside soil apparently represents church members, professing Christians.** They heard the Word of God, but it was not the hearing of faith. The Word was not mixed with faith, or if it was, it was a formal, intellectual faith which simply nodded the head. To people like this, Christianity is a sideline. Belonging to the church is like belonging to a social club. Not only do we find them in our churches, but some of them have fallen away from the church and are in cults and "isms."

Mat 13:5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.

Mat 13:6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.

- **The second group are represented by the stony soil. (Mat 13:20-21) But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; [21] yet he has no root in himself but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.**
- **These stony ground people (stony, shallow hearts) are the opposite of the first group.** It was the Devil who took the Word away from the wayside hearers, but the flesh is the culprit with this group. Instead of being in deep freeze, they are in the oven—warm, emotional, shedding tears, greatly moved. These could be called Alka-Seltzer Christians. There is a lot of fizz in them. They make as much fuss during a service as a rocket on a launching pad, but they never get into orbit. They have great zeal and energy during special meetings, but they are like burned out Roman candles after the meetings are over.

Mat 13:7 *And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.*

- **The third group of hearers is like thorny ground (crowded hearts).** With these people, the world crowds out the Word of God. The Devil got the wayside people, and the flesh took care of the rocky-ground people, but the world chokes out the Word for this class of hearers. The cares of the world move in. Sometimes it is poverty, and other times it is the deceitfulness of riches. There are a great many people have let the cares of the world crowd out the Word of God. These three types of soil do not represent three types of believers—being unfruitful, they are not believers at all! They have heard the Word and have only professed to receive it. We need to examine ourselves to see whether or not we are really in the faith.

Mat 13:8 *But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

- **Thank God, some seed falls on good ground (fruitful hearts),** and our Lord interprets this for us. These are the hearers who receive the Word and understand it. Some of them don't bring forth much fruit—only thirtyfold, but some bring forth an hundredfold! The miracle, the life, is in the seed!
- **There must be an understanding of the Word.** The Ethiopian eunuch, you remember, was reading the Word, but he didn't understand it—although he wanted to understand it. So the Spirit of God put Philip there as a hitchhiker. He took a ride with the Ethiopian and gave him a ticket to heaven. He explained the Word to him. The Ethiopian believed and received Him.
- **Philip was sowing the seed of the Word of God.** This is a Kingdom of Heaven situation as it reveals that the Sower, is sowing the seed of the Word of God in the world and that the Holy Spirit applies it to the hearts of those who want to believe.

Mat 13:9 *He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Psa 94:9) He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see? (Pro 20:12) The hearing ear and the seeing eye, The LORD has made them both.*

- **These are familiar words.** After our Lord had given the parable of the sower, He said something quite interesting! When Jesus addressed the churches in the book of Revelation, over and over He was exhorting those who had *an ear to hear*, let them hear what the *Spirit* is saying to the church. As Jesus gives them this parable, it's sort of a challenge to understand it. "**He who has ears to hear, let him hear.**" It does follow that there is not always an ear to hear. There are many who though they hear, they do not hear, they do not understand, they do not comprehend. Paul the apostle tells us (**1Co 2:14**) *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. May our ears hear the word of God! May we have the attitude of heart to receive and to do!*
- **It is difficult to explain the things of the Spirit to the natural man.** He lacks the faculties by which they are comprehended. You can, in the same logic, say the blind man does not enjoy the beauty of the sunset. The deaf man could not have enjoyed the music that we heard tonight, lacking the faculties by which these things are appreciated and understood, but Jesus is calling, "**He who has ears to hear, let him hear.**"

The Purpose of the Parables

Mat 13:10 *And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"*

- **The word parable is from the Greek *parabole*.** We get our English word ball from it. You throw or cast something down beside an object to measure it. Our Lord gave parables to measure heavenly truth which He could set before us.
- **Parables always reveal or conceal** based on the heart of the listener. There is something wrong with a person who has no interest in God's word, putting everything on Him to break through their busyness and disinterest in anything He has to say. Think about how offensive that is to God for such disinterest. Hence the speaking of parables.
- **Jesus gave two main reasons for His teaching in parables. First, to further reveal spiritual truth** to His disciples. To those who really want to follow Jesus. Those really interested in His truth and want to really know what it is that He is saying. To help them understand what is sometimes difficult concept concerning the Kingdom of God.
- **Second, He also used parables, interestingly enough, in order to hide the truth from other people.** He is not going to cast His pearls before swine. To hide the truth from those who gave the appearance of being sincere seekers of sincere followers of Him, but they were actually just wanting to see a miracle that He would do, but they were really indifferent. Such were the religious leaders, who came not to learn from Jesus but to find fault in Him. So, Jesus taught in parables to hide the truth from them.

Mat 13:11 *He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.*

- **Why did He do it?** This series of parables here in chapter thirteen is dealing with the mysteries of the

kingdom of heaven, being *given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.*

- **If a man wants to know the Word of God, he can know it!** He who wants to know the truth can know it. But you can shut your ears to it. There are multitudes of so-called broadminded people who shut their ears to the Word of God. If you don't want to hear it, you won't hear it! Not only would you fail to hear it, but you wouldn't understand it if you did hear it. You must have the kind of ear that wants to hear the Word of God.

Mat 13:12 *For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.*

- **Here is a promise to him that has, that has true grace, pursuant to the election of grace, that has, and uses what he has! He shall have more abundance.** God's favors are earnest of further favors. Where one lays a foundation, He will build upon it. Christ's disciples used the knowledge they now had. They had more abundance at the pouring out of the Spirit. They who have the truth of grace, shall have the increase of grace, even to an abundance in glory! The Lord will never shut the door to one who wants to hear. He makes it very clear that this is His reason for speaking in parables. Those who don't want to hear will not understand them.
- **But whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.** Here is a threatening to him that has not. One that has no desire of grace, that makes no right use of the gifts and graces he has: has no root, no solid principle. One that has but uses not what he has; from him shall be taken away that which he has or seems to have. His leaves shall wither. His gifts decay. The means of grace he has, and makes no use of, shall be taken from him. God will call in his talents out of their hands that are likely to become bankrupts quickly.

Mat 13:13 *Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.* (*sunīēmi* – to comprehend; to act; to consider; be wise)

- **Because seeing they do not see.** This seems to suggest that their own unbelief causes their spiritual blindness. In (**Luk 8:10**) *And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND.'* This seems to emphasize God's initiative in obscuring the truth from these unbelievers. To the rest it is given in parables, so that 'Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand'. Both are true, of course. Yet we are not to think that God blinds them because He somehow delights in their destruction. This judicial blinding may be viewed as an act of mercy, lest their condemnation be increased.

Mat 13:14 *And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'HEARING YOU WILL HEAR AND SHALL NOT UNDERSTAND, AND SEEING YOU WILL SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE;*

Mat 13:15 *FOR THE HEARTS OF THIS PEOPLE HAVE GROWN DULL. THEIR EARS ARE HARD OF HEARING, AND THEIR EYES THEY HAVE CLOSED, LEST THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, LEST THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEARTS AND TURN, SO THAT I SHOULD HEAL THEM.'*

- **Shall not understand ... and not perceive.** Isaiah's message was to be God's instrument for hiding the truth from an unreceptive people. Like Isaiah, are we, am I, willing to fight a losing battle for the Lord? We know we win the war because of Him, but we will need to fight losing battles here on earth!
- **Centuries later, Jesus' parables were to do the same.**

Mat 13:16 *But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;*

- **Jesus now is questioned by His disciples why He has reverted to parables.** His answer is that parables are understood by those who have the ear of the Spirit, not understood by others, which the prophecy of Isaiah was spoken. *"Hearing they shall hear, but not understand; seeing, they shall see, but not perceive. Because their hearts have grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing."* There is a danger many times of people hearing without hearing, without really understanding the Word of God.
- **Are people really hearing what is being said and taught by Bible believing pastors and teachers?** We need to realize that as the Word of God goes forth, there are different types of soil upon which the seed falls. These are the various types of people who receive or who hear the Word of God. It doesn't always take root. According to this parable, only about one-fourth of it actually produced fruit.
- **We have heard the Billy Graham Crusades and other evangelists being criticized** because so many people go forward and then they say, but where are they after the Crusade is over? , we never see them in church. There is criticism because it would seem that with all the people that have gone forward, surely there should be more evidence of these people becoming involved in the church. We need to be thankful for the one in four, or so, who do become so fruitful! Jesus said to His disciples, ***blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear.***

Mat 13:17 for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

- **Jesus is now unfolding to them parables to give them an understanding of the mystery of the kingdom of heaven.** The prophets in the Old Testament did not fully understand this. They desired it. They wrote about it. Peter tells us that there was a rather interesting situation concerning the prophets of the Old Testament, as they wrote about the salvation that God was going to provide through Jesus Christ. In **(1Pe 1:10-11)** *Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, [11] searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.*
- **They were prophesying, but they didn't understand what they were prophesying.** It seemed to them the prophecies concerning Jesus Christ were contradictory. It spoke of the glory of the kingdom of God, the kingdom of heaven that was going to come on earth. Yet, in speaking of the Messiah, they prophesied, *"He would be despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows acquainted with grief, wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities, numbered with the transgressors in His death."* They wrote these things, but they couldn't figure them out. What is God saying, they diligently searched trying to understand just what the Spirit of God was saying because it spoke of the sufferings, but yet it also spoke of the glory that should follow. Jesus now is unveiling to the disciples the truth of the mysteries of the kingdom.
- **Peter goes on to say in (1Pe 1:12)** *To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.* The mysteries of God's love, the mysteries of the abiding of the Holy Spirit within our lives, the mysteries of salvation, even the angels could not comprehend. They desired to look into it.
- **The mystery of the provision through the death of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins.** God putting on Him the iniquities of us all. His becoming the sacrifice for us. I'm certain that as it unfolded, all of a sudden the Old Testament was understood in a new and greater way than ever before, as they began to see all the types being fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus is now explaining some of these mysteries. It isn't given for the world to know, it's for His people. To them it is given to understand.
- **Many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.** Think about how Isaiah and Jeremiah would have loved to just spend one day with Jesus. How privileged they were, and we are to live in an age where the Messiah has come, fulfilling all the prophecies of His first coming and clearing the confusion between His first and second comings. **(Mat 11:11)** *"Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."*

The Parable of the Sower Explained

Mat 13:18 *"Therefore hear the parable of the sower:*

- **He said it's given to you, so hear now,** giving them explanation to the disciples of the parables!

Mat 13:19 *When anyone hears the word (the seed) of the kingdom, and does not understand (is unwilling to understand, a deliberate rejection, not a problem with intellect but with the heart) it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.*

- **The sower went forth to sow, some of the seed fell by the way side** (the hardened heart). The birds came and ate it. Nothing happened to it. It didn't do anything, being devoured before anything came of it. They are those who hear the Word of the kingdom and just have no comprehension. This speaks of those having hardened hearts against the word of God. They will not allow it to penetrate their heart. They are completely closed to the Gospel. What they don't realize is the demonic influence in this, that Satan is using the pride of a person in their thinking, they are so smart and sophisticated, they do not need anything from God's word.

Mat 13:20 *But he who received the seed on stony places (the second soil or heart condition), this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;*

- **There are those who receive the seed, which is the Word of God, and have a joyful,** immediate almost kind of reception to the message of Jesus Christ. These are those who go forward in evangelistic crusades when Billy Graham presents the truths of Jesus Christ, or Greg Laurie gives the invitation. They see others going forward. The Spirit of God has convicted their heart and they are moved, thinking, Oh, this is glorious! They are weighted down with the guilt of sin, and they go forward. You see the joy and the happiness upon their faces. But yet, there's no depth. Maybe it was just an emotional moment for them.

They were moved by the emotion of the moment. It was shallow.

- **In Israel, there are many rocky hillsides.** In the rocks are these little bowls, so to speak, that are filled with soil, maybe an inch or two inches of depth. After the rains, they are the first to bud forth with grass and with flowers. The flowers never grow very big because there isn't enough depth of soil in these shallow little holes in the rock. They are not only the first to come up, but they are the first to die away because of the lack of depth, and thus, without rain they soon become dry. The holds warmth and heat so the seeds germinate more rapidly in it after a rain. *That which falls among the rocks, they receive the Word of God with joy,*

Mat 13:21 *yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.*

- **They have no depth. They may come for a little while,** and sometimes they're the most enthusiastic. But then something comes along, and they're offended, having no depth of relationship. The Word of God hasn't really had a chance to really penetrate very far and take root. They are *offended and immediately stumble.* How long and how committed have we endured? How perseverant am I?

Mat 13:22 *Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches (the worries of life and the luring of wealth), choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.*

- **The four types of soil most likely are not each, exactly, one fourth or 25% of the whole.** It seems that perhaps this third group, the seed that fell among the thorns, is representative of the majority of those within the church. They grow, but they are pre-occupied! They develop, but they never bring forth fruit because with them grow the thorns that choke out the fruitfulness. Thorns of the deceitfulness of riches and the cares of this world. How many Christians' lives are unfruitful because they are so involved with the cares of this world, just trying to get along, and trying to get ahead, the deceitfulness of riches. The Word of God is choked out in their lives, and it cannot be said, that they are fruitful Christians. This soil or group of people probably entails the vast majority within the church. Those with the crowded heart, never allowing the word of God to really have priority in their life! There are a huge number of people who succumb to this kind of place! Jesus is showing them and us what is really in a crowd of a huge multitude! The word searches our hearts!
- **These three types of soil do not really represent three types of believers.** Because of the lack of fruit, it could be said, they are not believers at all! They have heard the Word and have only professed to receive it. How fruitful is my life? It would be well for all of us to examine ourselves to see whether or not we are really in the faith.

Mat 13:23 *But he who received seed on the good (beautiful) ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."*

- **How good it is to see the Word of God bringing fruit in a person's life.** Some seed falls on good ground. So, what is good ground? It is any heart that isn't hard; and it isn't shallow; and it isn't crowded! When a heart is free from those things, then it allows the seed of God to work in their life and heart what God wants to do. It's the same now as it was then, just one heart in four that is really "good ground"! The fact that only one in four receive, is never a reflection on the seed! There is never anything wrong with the seed. It's only a reflection on the human heart!
- Our Lord interprets this for us. Jesus said, **(Joh 15:3-5)** *You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. [4] Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. [5] "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*
- **In the fifteenth chapter of John, we can tie it to the spiritual fruitfulness of this parable.** Jesus tells of the Father's desire that you bring forth much fruit. How that when you begin to bring forth fruit, you are being washed, that you may bring forth more fruit. And **[8]** *By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so, you will be My disciples.* The whole purpose is to bring forth fruit!
- **Thank God, These are the hearers who receive the Word and understand it.** Some of them don't bring forth as much fruit, thirtyfold, but some bring forth sixty or a hundredfold!
- **There must be an understanding of the Word.** The Ethiopian eunuch was reading the Word, but he didn't understand it, even though he wanted to understand it. The Spirit of God put Philip there as a hitchhiker. He took a ride with the Ethiopian and gave him a ticket to heaven. He explained the Word to him that the One who was led as a sheep to the slaughter was the Lord Jesus Christ! That He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. The Ethiopian believed and received Him!
- **Philip was sowing the seed of the Word of God. This is a Kingdom of Heaven situation** as it reveals that the Sower, the Lord Jesus Christ, is sowing the seed of the Word of God in the world and that the Holy Spirit applies it to the hearts of those who want to believe.

The Parable of the Tares (Weeds) – an answer to the question, “Is the world getting better or worse”?

Mat 13:24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; (Mat 13:37) He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

- **The Lord picks up where He left off in the parable of the sower.** He has told us that only about one-fourth of the sown seed ever got into good ground. The other three-fourths never did produce anything because the people heard the Word did not respond to it.

Mat 13:25 *but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.*

- **Notice who is asleep. While men slept, the enemy came.** There is nothing negative said about the men sleeping or that Satan came because of their sleeping. Satan is the enemy, and he sows tares among the wheat. The tares are false doctrine. There's a great deal of that type of sowing today.

Mat 13:26 *But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.*

- **Now we see another facet of the Kingdom of Heaven condition in the world today.** It is a picture of a man who sowed good seed in his field. As wheat and tares first begin to grow, it is difficult to distinguish between them. Most cults and “isms” also sound good at first. You cannot tell them from the real thing until later as they introduce their false doctrine, sowing tares among the wheat. Tares look like wheat, but when they mature they never ever, produce any fruit!

Mat 13:27 *So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not so good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'*

Mat 13:28 *He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'*

- Now we see that the sower knew who was responsible for the tares. That is, that the enemy had sown them.

Mat 13:29 *But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.*

Mat 13:30 *Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest (time of heaven) I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' ' ' "*

- **This is a very important picture to see and to interpret.** Our Lord says, “Don't try to pull up the tares. Let them both grow together, and when they finally ripen, you will be able to recognize which are tares and which are wheat.”
- **We find out from this passage, and related passages, that our business is to preach the Word.** We are not to go around pulling up tares, because when you pull up tares, you also pull up some wheat with them. We are not to pull up tares but to sow the wheat! Sowing the Word of God is my responsibility.
- **Both tares and wheat are growing in this world.** This is a Kingdom of Heaven situation in Christendom during this interval between Christ's rejection and His return to establish His Kingdom upon the earth. It is not a picture of Christ's true church. It may well be a picture of the organized church.” That is true, but the organized church is not His church. The true church is made up of true believers, who have trusted Christ as Savior, are resting in Him, and love His Word! This is the real test. We are not to be too disturbed that the wheat and tares are growing together. One day the Lord will put in His sickle and separate the tares and wheat. Be thankful that isn't our job!
- **Now we're going to get a series of parables that have to do with the church, mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, which we will discuss next week. We'll move on now to the explanation of the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares.**

The Mustard Seed and the Leaven

Mat 13:31 *Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, Mat 13:32 which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches." Mat 13:33 Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."*

Prophecy and Parables- Mat 13:34 *All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, Mat 13:35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES; I WILL UTTER THINGS KEPT SECRET FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD."*

The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares Explained

Mat 13:36 *Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."*

- **The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares - That was the one they were interested in.** How that the good man had sown the good seed into the field. How the enemy came and sowed the darnel, the tares, when the harvest time came. As the tares (called darnel, in Israel, and the wheat are growing together, you really can't tell the difference. They look alike. It is not until it comes time for harvest. Then, it's quite obvious, the difference between the two. When it came time to harvest, the servants came and said, Lord, someone has sown the darnel among the wheat. Shall we go out and reap it out? Jesus said, No, wait until the harvest, the end of the world.
- **The Lord is saying that these things. He is going to allow them to grow together.** He said not to take up the darnel now lest when uprooting it, you destroy some of the wheat. Let them grow together. In the final harvest it will be revealed. Then, the darnel will be taken down and cast into the fire, while the wheat will be gathered into the barn.

Mat 13:37 *He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.*

- **The sower represents the Lord Jesus. We learn this from this verse.** The Lord Jesus is the One sowing the seed. That defines His work today in the world. He was the King, but He laid aside His regal robes. Today, He is doing the work of a farmer, sowing good seed. But He is still the King!

Mat 13:38 *The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares (zizanon – darnel or false grain) are the sons of the wicked one.*

- **Jesus is explaining this to you now.** The *good seed, the sons of the kingdom.* He is the One. Jesus is the One, who has sown us in the world! *But the tares (or darnel) are the sons of the wicked one.*

Mat 13:39 *The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.*

- **In the explanation you see then the meaning of the parable.** Within the church, there are those who are worldly that grow together with those who are true children of the kingdom. You remember Jesus said that many will come in that day saying, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name? Do marvelous miracles? Cast out devils? He'll say I never knew you. The Bible tells us, **(2Pe 1:10a)** *Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure.* It is important that all of us take a careful examination of our own lives. Paul said, "Therefore, let a man examine himself for if we will judge ourselves, we will not be judged of God." It's important that we look at our lives honestly and evaluate. Is my life really bringing forth fruit? Am I just taking up space? Or is my life really producing fruit, abundant fruit?

Mat 13:40 *Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age (day of judgment).*

Mat 13:41 *The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,*

- **At the end of this age, His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness.** Paul the apostle gives to us a long list the works of the flesh. **(Gal 5:19-21a)** *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, [20] idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, [21a] envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*
- **Then he gives to us a very solemn warning.** **(Gal 5:21)** *envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*
- **Read over that list. The works of the flesh.** **(Gal 6:7-8)** *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. [8] For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.* They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven. *The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness*

Mat 13:42 *and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing (the emotional torment) and gnashing of teeth (the physical horror of eternal damnation).*

- **Jesus, don't you know that isn't politically correct?** That might offend someone who is living in sin and iniquity.

Mat 13:43 *Then the righteous will shine forth* (blessed forever more!) *as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!*

- **How beautiful! The day will come, the Lord will separate. We're not to separate, the Lord will separate.** The angels of God, I tell you again, how important that we really examine ourselves.
- **Again, the kingdom of their Father. These of course, now are to the disciples; those others were to the people,** He explained a couple of them to the disciples. Now these are just given to the disciples. He's in the house with them.
- **Notice that Jesus is saying that this form of opposition from Satan is going to go on all the way to the end of the age!** Not just in the first century, or just the twenty-first century, from the time of Jesus' ministry until the time the tares and the wheat are separated at that White Throne judgment, when things give way to a new heaven and a new earth, this is going to be the way things happen in the world for us as we work to expand the kingdom of God. But one day, He is going to deal with it! We can be sure that the tares will be separated from the wheat! The false will be separated from the true!

Summary of the meanings of the first two parables:

- **The Parable of the Sower (the soil) is the key** to properly interpreting all the parables: *(Mar 4:13) And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?"*
- **Fruitfulness is a direct product of true salvation, which is totally related to the attitude of one's heart, in receiving the truth of the word of God and acting on it.** This parable uses the four conditions of the soil to represent the four conditions of a hearer's heart.
- **The key point of this whole parable is that the only one of these four hearts which is genuinely Christian is the fourth one.** The sowing is not salvation, nor the hearing of the word. Many hear, but they are not Christians. Even the sprouting of the seed is not salvation. That is important to note. The enthusiasm, the joy with which it is received, the immediate results in the life are not yet salvation. Isn't that startling? There are many who profess in this way, Jesus said, but they are not Christians.
- **Salvation is seen when the fruit comes. Fruit appears when the will is genuinely yielded to the lordship of Christ, when the word is welcomed and nourished and acted on and allowed to grow to fruition.**

The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares:

- **The First form of opposition that Satan takes against the kingdom of God of what looks like Christianity, but is a false Christianity, in putting it right next to Christianity in order to marginalize, discredit, stumble people, confusing them about what Christianity really is like.** Wherever you have a legitimate work of God's Holy Spirit going on, Satan will attempt to disrupt it and spoil its impact, by planting false Christians.
- **It's part of his plan.** No church existing or striving in the world, speaking about Christendom around the world, every time and everywhere God is working in this way, the Devil comes in and he tries to oppose by joining, so to speak.
- **Why does he do it? Jesus said, to offend people:** to scandalize, to stumble, to confuse people, concerning Christ or Christianity. Tare Christianity looks like Christianity, but it isn't, and it does terrible damage. weight of it.
- **We need to stay focused on what He has called us to do and not allow this kind of thing to discourage us or to derail us.** Jesus warns us that this will be the case.
- **A major point of this parable is to give us a clue to the way that the enemy works most successfully. It is by imitation, by counterfeit.**
- **Unless we use the Word of God to evaluate their teachings, we can be deceived by the niceness of people who are imitation, counterfeit apostles, as the Word of God calls them.**

Is the world getting better? Or worse?

Mat 6:33 *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

What do we do, with respect to the attitude of our hearts?

- **Note here that our Lord is describing hearts, not lives.** He is not saying that once a man is like a certain kind of soil, he is unchangeable, that his life is forever like this. He is saying that his heart may be like this. But hearts change. Hearts are altered by the circumstances of our life.
- **What Jesus is asking us is, "What is your heart like when it hears the word?"** What are you like when the word of the kingdom, with its promise of power and of righteousness, falls on your heart? What is your heart like then?" That is His question.
- **Are we letting the word of God have its way?**
- **Are there places in our heart that are still hard?** We need to take them to Him. He'll plow them up. He specialized in that.
- **Are there still places in our life that are so shallow, that it makes us sick?** Take those to Him, He can give us depth. He is willing to do that!
- **Are there places in our lives and I know there are in mine, where we are letting the world weigh more than it should?** I don't want the world to choke the word of God in my life. I have enough warfare and enough going on. I need the word to always be alive in my life, my hope, my joy! Not to have the cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches and the things that surround us choking that in my life so that it would ever become unfruitful.
- **Lord, let me, help me to be a 30, 60 or a 100-fold!** Let my heart be beautiful before You as You sow Your word!
- *Psa 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;*
- *Psa 139:24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.*

Closing Song:

I GIVE YOU MY HEART - Darlene Zschech (4:29)

This is my desire To honor You Lord, with all my heart I worship You All I have within me I give You praise
All that I adore Is in You

Lord, I give You my heart I give You my soul I live for You alone Every breath that I take Every moment I'm
awake Lord, have Your way in me (2X)

This is my desire To honor You Lord, with all my heart I worship You All I have within me I give You praise All
that I adore Is in You

Lord, I give You my heart I give You my soul I live for You alone Every breath that I take Every moment I'm
awake Lord, have Your way in me

Lord, I give You my heart I give You my soul And I live for You alone

Every breath that I take Every moment I'm awake Lord, have Your way in me

Closing Prayer:

Assignment for next week: **Read Matthew Chapter 13:31-58**