



## 28: Kingdom Parables (part 2) Matthew 13:24-52

It's said that those who could get a glimpse of hell would do whatever it takes not to go there. Jesus uses parables to prepare his audience for the reality of eternity that awaits all people - future hope or future judgment. And what Jesus says should make an eternal difference in our daily decisions.

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## teachingnotes

### WHY PARABLES?

Jesus taught in parables because stories stick.

### WHAT ARE PARABLES?

Parables are everyday stories revealing eternal truths.

### Weeds Among the Wheat

**Matthew 13:24-30** (NLT) Here is another story Jesus told: **"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew."**

The farmer's workers went to him and said, "Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?"

"An enemy has done this!" the farmer exclaimed.

"Should we pull out the weeds?" they asked.

"No," he replied, "you'll uproot the wheat if you do. Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to **sort out the weeds**, tie them into bundles, and **burn them**, and to **put the wheat in the barn.**"

The term for these **weeds** (NET *darnel*; NAS *tares*) refers to "a weedy rye grass with poisonous seeds, which in early stages of growth looks like wheat but can be distinguished easily at harvest time."<sup>1</sup> This kind of weed has roots that are stronger and deeper than the wheat, so uprooting the weeds would uproot the wheat before it's ready to be harvested.<sup>2</sup>

Jesus later explains this parable, as we will see.

### Mustard Seed to Maturity

**Matthew 13:31-32** (NLT) Here is another illustration Jesus used: **"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it **becomes the largest of garden plants**; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches."**

**Mustard seeds** were the smallest seeds typically planted in Galilee, often used as illustrations for the smallest amount of something (*Mt 17:20*). But these small seeds can grow into large bushes measuring 10-12 feet high & very wide, a sanctuary for **birds** to **make nests in its branches**.

❓ What's the eternal truth about the Kingdom of Heaven in this story?

- The Kingdom of Heaven might start small, but it will grow into a large family that has room for many people to find rest, protection, and hope!

The next story has the same meaning.

### A Little Yeast Goes a Long Way

**Matthew 13:33** (NLT) Jesus also used this illustration: **"The Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it **permeated every part of the dough.**"**

<sup>1</sup> Michael J. Wilkins, Matthew, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2004), 482.

<sup>2</sup> Donald A. Hagner, Matthew 1-13, vol. 33A, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1993), 384.

**Matthew 13:34-35** (NLT) **Jesus always used stories and illustrations** like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables. This fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet: "I will speak to you in parables. I will explain things hidden since the creation of the world."

### **WHY SO MANY PARABLES?**

Parables *reveal & conceal* - revealing truth to those who are listening, but concealing the truth from those who refuse to listen. Parables help the simple see and make the boastful blind.

### **Explaining the Weeds Among the Wheat**

**Matthew 13:36-43** (NLT) Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, "Please explain to us the story of the weeds in the field."

Jesus replied, "The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed. The field is the world, and the **good seed represents the people of the Kingdom**. The **weeds are the people who belong to the evil one**.

The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. **The harvest is the end of the world**, and the harvesters are the angels.

Just as the **weeds** are sorted out and **burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world**. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then **the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom**. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!

Those who say that Jesus never judges or those who say there is no hell, or God wouldn't send anyone there...*MUST CONTEND* with what Jesus has said. There *WILL BE* a real judgment and *THERE IS* a real place or punishment.

Thankfully, **there is HOPE**, for those who have been made **righteous** by Jesus - living in the **Kingdom!**

➡ If this is the reality of eternity, then we all should **listen and understand**, as eternity is much longer than our short life on earth.

### **Worth The Price!**

**Matthew 13:44-46** (NLT) **The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure** that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.

Again, **the Kingdom of Heaven** is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. When he discovered **a pearl of great value**, he sold everything he owned and bought it!

❓ Does that sound like YOUR pursuit of **the Kingdom of Heaven**? What is getting in the way of you seeking the KINGdom?

### **Separating the Catch From the Fishing Net**

**Matthew 13:47-50** (NLT) Again, **the Kingdom of Heaven** is like a fishing net that was thrown into the water and caught fish of every kind. When the net was full, they dragged it up onto the shore, sat down, and sorted the good fish into crates, but threw the bad ones away. That is the way it will be at the end of the world. **The angels** will come and **separate** the wicked people from **the righteous**, throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### **Responsibility to Grow & Train Others**

**Matthew 13:51-52** (NLT)

"Do you understand all these things?"

"Yes," they said, "we do."

Then he added, "Every teacher of religious law who becomes **a disciple in the Kingdom of Heaven** is like a homeowner who brings from his storeroom new gems of truth as well as old."

**Every teacher of religious law** was a scholar trained to interpret the Scriptures and then teach it to others.<sup>3</sup> But Jesus is not referring scholarly scribes, many whom rejected Jesus, but to anyone who would follow Him and **becomes a disciple in the Kingdom**. Disciples of Jesus are now to make the connection between the Old Covenant teachings and the New Covenant truths as communicated by Jesus the Messiah - like a homeowner bringing out the **new gems of truth** (as taught by Jesus), with the **old** treasures of truth (as taught through the Old Covenant Scriptures). **Like a homeowner** bringing out the **new gems** and **old** gems to share with his guests, the disciple is to bring out these treasures of truth to share with others!

<sup>3</sup> Hagner, 401.

## ? What are WE going to do with THAT?



1. **SELF-CHECK.** Are YOU *a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven*? Are you forgiven & free....or are you guilty & enslaved to sin? TURN FROM your sin and TURN TO Jesus!
2. **SEEK.** Seek the Kingdom *FIRST*. Open the treasures from the Old Testament & New Testament Scriptures. Practice being aware of Jesus' Presence. Serve others in Jesus' Name.
3. **SHARE.** *Warn of God's wrath and offer God's peace.* People need to know the TRUTH - according to Jesus there really is the reality of eternity. Ask God for opportunities to share with others. Fight through the fear & share that you care about their souls.

### heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

\* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!

\* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Steve & Debbie Bass** (850-673-7952), **Tim & Joni Hughey** (850-464-1156), **Mark & Dot Mancil** (850-253-5405), **Boss & Amelia Mulkey** (850-464-6717), or **Tom & Martha Waddail** (850-973-0011).

## discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged or encouraged you *most* from today's teaching?
2. Read **Matthew 13:24-30**. Who is the **enemy** & what does he do? Who do the **wheat** represent? Who do the **weeds** represent?
3. Read **Matthew 13:31-33**. What is the point Jesus is trying to make? How have we seen the 'mustard seed/yeast' grow?
4. Read **Matthew 13:36-43 & 47-50**. Based on the parable of *the weeds in the field* (Mt 13:36-44) & *the fishing net* (Mt 13:47-50), what would you say to a person who says, "I don't think a loving God would send people to hell forever."? What HOPE do you find in these 2 parables?
5. After reading **Matthew 13:44-46**, what is the point of these 2 parables? What are some evidences of a person who is seeking the KINGdom wholeheartedly? How does this challenge YOU?
6. After reading **Matthew 13:51-52**, and looking back at your notes for comments to help, what are some practical ways that we could help others see how the New Testament teachings of Jesus can give clarity to the Old Testament AND how the Old Testament gives background that helps us better appreciate the New Testament. (e.g. knowing that Jesus died to pay for our sins [New Testament], but seeing how this was spoken of 700 years before [Isaiah 53 - Old Testament]).
7. What does God want YOU to do with what we studied today?
8. Share prayer needs and pray for one another.