

Southside Baptist Church  
Wednesday Night Worship – 8-2-23  
Matthew Chapter 13 Part 4  
The Parable of the Tares and Wheat

**1. Introduction:**

**a. Taking a look back:**

- 1) **Matthew 13 - characteristics** of the kingdom in this present age.
  - a) Parables help us to see how God is going to work and the course of the Gospel in this world.
- 2) **“The kingdom of heaven is likened to...”** means compare, become similar, resemble.
- 3) In the Parable of the Sower:
  - a) The one sowing is moving. Not sowing in one place. Spreading Gospel.
  - b) The **“seed”** is the Word of God.
  - c) The **“heart”** - the center of human life, your intellect, emotions, and will.
  - d) The true test of the heart/soil – FRUIT!
  - e) The **“wayside”** regularly traveled path. Soil is hardened by the many who walk on it.
  - f) The fowls are a picture of satan.
  - g) **“catcheth away”** – verse 19 - satan seeks to reinforce by his influence that whatever the person is or however they are living that they are ok.
- 4) Seeds sown on the **“stony”** (shallow) heart:
  - a) Without root no endurance when tribulation and persecution come.
  - b) Because of the shallowness of the soil – quick and fruitless response.
  - c) Pictures an emotionally based response to the Gospel.
  - d) Root – speaks of stability, grounded.
- 5) Seeds sown among the **“thorns”** **“thorn choked”** heart:
  - a) Thorns upon the ground, some lying hidden. Thorns are weeds that naturally grow.
  - b) Thorns rob the seed of life. **“Choke the word”**
  - c) Thorns – picture the **“cares of this world”** – distractions. **“deceitfulness of riches”** – the hold money and riches can have.
- 6) We ended with a question last time, why do you think there is such a difference in the fruit produced? **Matthew 13:8, 23.**

**b. Taking a look ahead:**

- 1) Tonight, wrap up the Parable of the Sower.
- 2) Move into the Parable of the Tares and Wheat.

**2. The “good ground (soil)” – the ready heart. Vs. 8 and vs. 23**

- a. The Gospel is heard, it is received, and the Spirit of God begins to work in this new heart.
- 1) The soil is ready, the seed is responding and the result is FRUIT!.
  - 2) What contributes to the different fruit that is produced?
    - a) Some suggestions would include -
  - 3) The seed is responding to the soil.
    - a) Is it possible that some soil is healthy and other soil, not so much?

**b. A little different perspective:**

- 1) The question is simply, what is it that can cause a seed to grow and produce maximum fruit?
- 2) I think there is a correlation between the amount of fruit and the care of the soil.

- 3) Application – That prompted two questions that to be honest I am still thinking through.
  - a) First - How do we care for the soil of people's hearts?
  - b) Second - How do they care for their hearts?

c. **Jesus ended the parable: Verse 9**

- 1) **"who hath ears to hear, let him hear."**

**2. The Parable of the "tares" and the "wheat": Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43**

a. **In this parable about the kingdom:**

- 1) Verse 24 – **"kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed"** – in verse 37 we are told that this man, the one who **"soweth the good seed is the Son of man."**
- 2) Verse 24 – **"good seed"** – in verse 38 we find that the **"good seed are the children of the kingdom"** those who responded by faith to the truth of the Word.
- 3) Verse 24 – **"field"** – in verse 38 we are told the **"field is the world"** – for clarification the field is not the church.
- 4) Verse 25 – **"his enemy"** – in verse 39 we are told that the **"enemy that sowed them is the devil."**
- 5) Verse 25 – **"tares"** – in verse 38 we are told that the **"tares are the children of the wicked one."**
- 6) Verse 30 – **"harvest"** – In verse 39 we are told the **"harvest is the end of the world."**
- 7) Verse 30 – **"reapers"** – In verse 39 we are told the **"reapers are the angels."**

b. **So important to keep in mind:**

- 1) The King has been rejected by Israel therefore -
  - a) These parables help us to see how God is going to work and the course of the Gospel in the world.

c. **Jesus is sowing "good seed" - Verse 24 –**

- 1) In verse 24 – the **"man"** referenced is the **"Son of man"** that is Jesus.
- 2) The **"good seed"** that is sown in this parable isn't the Word of God, but it speaks of the **"children of the kingdom"**. The **"field"** speaks of the **"world"**.
- 3) What do you see here?

d. **The enemy is sowing "tares" - Verse 25 –**

- 1) **"while men slept"** speaks of -
- 2) Jesus reveals:
  - a) **"The enemy"** – Jesus tells us it is the devil.
  - b) **"tares"** – **"children of the wicked one"**
- 3) What do you see?
- 4) This may seem like a harsh and judgmental statement.
  - a) First, let me remind you here that it is Jesus who is doing the speaking.
  - b) Jesus pointed out that the enemy plants false Christians and false teachers where the **"good seed"** is, true believers.

e. Think about these “**tares**”:

- 1) “**tares**” – something that is sowed that looks like the real thing but actually is not and does not bear fruit.
- 2) “**tares**” – the real hypocrite in the Church for they resemble Christians, and some can even live their lives in such a way that it makes it hard to tell them from true believers.
- 3) Just to be clear this hypocrisy we speak of is rooted in the work of satan.
- 4) They are this way because of several possibilities.
- 5) The sowing of these “**tares**” is interesting to me because it seems that it was easy?
- 6) “**and went his way**” –

**f. Time here is the key: Verse 26**

- 1) There was a period of time when the two were functioning and growing together but when the fruit was produced, the tares were now visible.
- 2) The tares and the wheat grew together.

**g. Someone was watching: Verse 27**

- 1) Thank the Lord someone was watching.
- 2) If we see that this is a problem maybe in this time of grace we could pray for those among us that the Spirit would draw them and that their eyes would be opened.

**h. These servants were ready and willing: Verse 28**

- 1) The servants were ready and willing to go into the fields and get the tares out.

**i. A warning to the “tares: Verse 29-30:**

- 1) The harvest is coming.
- 2) Verse 30 – “**Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.**”

**3. Tonight’s Take Away:**

- a. Can the tare be transformed into wheat?