

# Matthew 13:24-43

## “The Kingdom and Commitment”

True believers, who experience true growth nurtured by good doctrine, are blessed by God and a blessing to others. On the other hand, false believers, false growth, and false doctrine are like plastic fruit - it may look nice, especially from a distance, but don't nourish soul. Discover the importance and benefits of being true believers committed to Christ...

### Discussion Questions:

1. What are the benefits and burdens of true and false believers growing together?
2. How can believers address questionable beliefs or conduct without judging?
3. How can we prioritize purity and Christ-likeness?
4. What are some ways that false doctrine seems to be threatening or corrupting God's people today?
5. What are some ways to ensure that we know sound doctrine and avoid false?

**Pastor Robb Oram**  
**Mobil Ave. campus**

### Jesus is Our King (Vision for 2016):

As followers of Jesus Christ, we want to allow Him to be King in every realm of our lives: personal, marriage, family, career, community and calling.

Every Christian has a calling- Jesus calls us to make disciples (Matt. 28:19)- to teach people to obey everything He's commanded.

Is there someone whom you are teaching about Jesus? If not, pray & ask the Lord to lead you to the right person(s).

**subject: Jesus warns of corruption in His kingdom**

**objective: be careful, true believers in Jesus Christ**

I. false believers (vv. 24-30; 36-43)

**Discussion Question: what are some characteristics (fruit) of true believers?**

A. Satan plants false believers in the world to corrupt true believers

B. only the Lord knows whether or not someone is a true believer

“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

(Matt. 7:22-23)

C. we must be careful whom we believe, follow, and imitate

II. false growth (vv. 31-32)

A. the kingdom of heaven will grow in unnatural, unhealthy, ungodly, false ways and be infested and corrupted by false believers

B. growth doesn’t automatically mean health, or truth

C. we must be careful where and with whom we get involved

III. false teaching (vv. 33-35)

A. leaven often represents false teaching in Scripture (Matt. 16:6-12, Luke 12:1, Gal. 5:9)

B. Jesus says false teaching will continue to grow, spread, and influence

C. we must be careful what we believe

## **Pastor Bruce Zachary** **Lewis Rd. campus**

**“Jesus is Our King and the Calling Realm”** When Christ is king in your life you make disciples [Matt. 28:19] teach people everything He’s commanded. Is there someone in your life whom you are teaching about Jesus? If not, pray & ask the Lord to lead you to someone...

**Intro.** Plastic fruit: looks good, but doesn’t nourish. Cf. False believers, false growth, and false doctrine are like plastic fruit: may look nice, especially from a distance, but don’t nourish soul. Cf. True believers, who experience true growth nurtured by good doctrine are blessed and bless others.

**Subject: Parables of the wheat and tares, mustard seed, and leaven**

**Object: Be true believers committed to Christ**

## **Thesis: Jesus uses a series of three parables to predict the problems of false believers, false growth, and false doctrine that can corrupt His Church**

**Context:** Parable of the Sower: 4 types of soil, but only the good soil that produces abundant fruit likely represents true believers

### **I. Wheat and the Tares [24-30, 36-43]**

#### **A. Jesus predicts the problem of false believers among the true [24-27]**

##### **1. There are people who claim to be followers of Christ who aren't truly saved**

a. **Another parable [24]** *allos* another of the same kind. Parable of the Sower [1-23] and the call to receive Christ and bear fruit.

b. A parable is an earthly story that comes alongside to explain a spiritual principle

c. Seven "kingdom parables" re the church age (time between 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming)

**2. The Sower is Jesus [25,37], the enemy is the devil [25, 39], and the field is the world (not the Church) [25, 38].** The Church is the Body of Christ (true believers)

**3. Wheat/good seeds are true believers; tares are false believers (sons of the devil) [25, 38]** **Tares:** Bearded Darnel. Initially looks like wheat but is poisonous.

a. Roman law provided punishment for the crime of sowing tares in an enemy's field

#### **B. Jesus' solution [26, 28-30]**

**1. The fruit (grain) reveals the true wheat from the false tares [26]** **But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.**

a. When the grain comes forth you can distinguish wheat from tares

b. Don't be too quick to judge true from false.

**2. Let them grow together [30]** **Let both grow together until the harvest**

**a. Don't ignore questionable beliefs or conduct of professing believers. But only God can judge whether someone is truly saved**

**3. Warn of the eternal destiny of false and true believers**

**a. False believers experience God's judgment, and true believers experience His presence [30, 39-43]** **First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn [30]:** God divides true from false

**b. [39] the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels:** Judgment after 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.

c. Eternal torment for unbelievers **fire, wailing and gnashing of teeth [42]** and glory for true **the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.**

**What are some of the characteristics of true believers?**

**II. The Parable of the Mustard Seed [31-32]** 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, <sup>32</sup> 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."

**A. The problem: false growth**

**1. Growth contrary to God's design:** The mustard seed is the smallest seed in Mideast [32], and produces a large bush but won't produce a tree.

a. **Trees** are associated in Scripture with worldly power [Dan. 4:12]

b. **Birds** are associated with the influence of Satan [13:19 re soils]

c. This is not a picture of the world coming to Jesus. The parable and its context reveal a picture of corrupting influence rather than true church dominance.

d. A form of godliness without the Spirit of God [2Tim. 3:1-5]

**B. The solution: pursue purity and Christ-likeness**

**1. Growth consistent with God's design**

a. Jesus told the curious that they needed to partake of Him [Jn. 6] not come to Him primarily for material gain; and they must be born-again [Jn. 3].

b. The early church was empowered by God's Spirit and valued purity rather than numerical growth [Ac. 2, 5]

**III. The Parable of the Leaven [33-34]**

**A. The problem: false doctrine [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."

**1. The corrupting compromise of false doctrine:**

a. **Leaven** (yeast) is a symbol of evil/sin.

i. Hiding yeast in meal would be offensive to a Jew

ii. Three measures of meal was enough for @ 100 people, an unusually large amount

b. The parable and the context show the parable warns of corruption in the church

i. This is *not* a picture of the gospel spreading to the world, nor a picture of the church permeating society.

c. Leaven is associated with false doctrine [Matt. 16:6-12, Gal. 5:9]

d. Feasts all excluded leaven in the offerings with the exception of Pentecost where the church is born. Picture of sin in the church.

e. Problem re cults [JW, LDS], liberal churches that abandon sound doctrine, doctrinal matters in the Catholic Church -> Protestant Reformation

**B. The solution: proclaim pure doctrine and Christ-likeness [34-37]**

**1. Jesus' parables reveal truth to those who seek to know & grow [34-35]** All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, <sup>35</sup> 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. Revelation of the Church

**2Pet. 3:18** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

**2. Jesus' disciples seek to know true doctrine [36]** His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

a. **Christ's disciples know the truth and the truth sets them free [Jn. 8:31-32]** Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

**3. Jesus' church proclaims sound doctrine that promotes Christ-likeness [37] He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man:** Test doctrine re whether it produces Christ-like character

**Conc:** Be true believers committed to Christ. Commit to pursue purity and Christ-likeness, commit to grow in knowledge and application of doctrine.