

Matthew 13:24

24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;

25 "but while men slept (religious leaders, ministers, judges, etc.), his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

- Tares are weeds that when are still young look like wheat. They are poisonous.
- The Roman government made it illegal for anyone to plant tares in his enemy's field.

26 "But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

27 "So the servants (angels) of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'

- Jesus only sows good seed.

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?'

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

- This explains why wicked people exist everywhere on the earth.
- It also shows us that angels, as powerful as they are, do not have the discernment to know what is in people's hearts. Only Jesus has the power to immediately know true believers from non-believers.
- The only way for us believers and for angels to differentiate true from false Christians is through fruit. *Matthew 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.*
- *16 "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?"*

30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest 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. ""

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,

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."

- Some believe that the mustard seed was the beginning of Jesus's ministry here on earth. It began among the disciples as something small and insignificant.
- Jesus paints a picture of how the church (tiny seed) would eventually grow and ultimately lead to the millennial kingdom which is represented by the tree, which eventually becomes bigger and more significant than other trees (kingdoms).

- The birds of the air, it's believed represent all the different nations that will come to seek refuge in the millennial kingdom.

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."

- The kingdom of heaven represents everything concerning Jesus's ministry here on earth.
- The leaven or yeast represents church growth and how it would influence the whole world.
- Leaven in this case does not represent sin (Leviticus 7:13; 23:15-18).

34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them,

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."

- Jesus did not speak to the multitudes plainly again because they were not seeking for or interested in His truth.

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."

- He only revealed His truth to His disciples after He had sent away the multitudes.

37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man (Jesus).

38 "The field is the world (not the church), the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom (Jewish unbelievers but who were destined for the kingdom), but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. (Those who deliberately reject the word)

39 "The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age (the millennial kingdom after the rapture), and the reapers are the angels.

40 "Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

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,

42 "and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

- This confirms that there will be non-believers in the millennial kingdom as well. Children born during the millennial rule.
- Unfortunately, not all of the children that are born during the millennial kingdom will come to faith in Christ. Those that do not will be led away by Satan into rebellion against God at the end of the millennial kingdom when Satan is let loose for a short time (Revelation 20:7-10).

43 "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

- It is believed that when the messianic (millennial) kingdom ends, the rule of the Son and the Father will continue forever in the new heaven and the new earth (Revelation 21—22).