

**THE PARABLE OF THE TARES (WEEDS):  
EIGHT TRUTHS ABOUT GOD’S KINGDOM  
UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM SERIES**

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**TEXT: Matthew 13:24** Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. <sup>27</sup> The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in *your field*? How then does it have tares?’ <sup>28</sup> And he said to them, ‘An enemy has done this!’ The slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’ <sup>29</sup> But he said, ‘No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

**Matthew 13:36** Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.” <sup>37</sup> And He said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, <sup>38</sup> and the field is the world; and *as for* the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil *one*; <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup> So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, <sup>42</sup> and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

**INTRO:** Last week we began a new series called “Unlocking the Mysteries of the Kingdom,” and we studied the Parable of the Sower. We want to continue in Matthew 13, where there are eight parables. Today we want to look at the Parable of the Tares, or Weeds, but specifically I want to look at Eight Kingdom Truths found in this amazing parable.

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## **I. EIGHT TRUTHS OF GOD'S KINGDOM**

### **A. TRUTH #1: JESUS IS THE ONE WHO SOWS THE GOOD SEEDS**

1. **Matthew 13:37** And He said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.”

2. In the first Parable of the Sower, God is also the One who sows. He is the One who plants believers and is the Head of all ministries.

### **B. TRUTH #2: THE FIELD IS THE WORLD AND THE WORLD BELONGS TO GOD**

1. **Matthew 13:38** “and the field is the world.”

2. **Matthew 13:24** “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in *his* field.”

3. **Matthew 13:27** “The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in *your* field? How then does it have tares?’”

4. **Psalm 24:1** The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.

5. He owns the world because He created the world. If you create an invention, you have to get the patent for it, but you own it. It is yours because you created it.

6. **John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

7. **Colossians 1:16** For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.

### **C. TRUTH #3: THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS ADVANCED THROUGH GOD'S PEOPLE**

1. **Matthew 13:38** “and *as for* the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil *one*.”

2. In the Parable of the Sower, the seed is the Word of God. Here the seeds are the sons of the Kingdom. In the first parable, the seed was the Word of God that brought about a harvest; in the second parable, the seed is the people of God who bring about a harvest.

3. **God uses His Word and His people to bring in the harvest and transformation of society.**

**D. TRUTH #4: THE TARES (WEEDS) ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE EVIL ONE**

1. **Matthew 13:38b** “and the tares are the sons of the evil *one*.”
2. **SATAN HAS A FAMILY.**
3. Unbelievers advance Satan’s agenda. Just like Christians are filled with the Holy Spirit, unbelievers can be demonized.
4. One caution: People are not our enemies. The enemy is the enemy.
5. The context of this is to love our enemy.
6. We don’t wrestle against flesh or blood. Nevertheless, people who are lost are puppets of the enemy, Satan. E.g. The devil entered Judas.
7. **Jesus said in John 8:44, “You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”**
8. These are strong words. Three characteristics of children of the devil in this context are: (1) Murderers, (2) Liars, (3) Religious.
9. That is why truth telling is so important. That is why Christians are pro-life, because they view abortion as murder. That is why I cannot vote for anyone who is pro-abortion.
10. People who are demonically influenced can be destructive to society. That is why elections matter in a democratic society. That is why I am asking you, as your pastor, that you look at each candidate and see which ones align with your biblical values.
11. I was told that in the 2018 election, out of 60 million evangelical voters, only 20 million showed up at the polls to vote.

**E. TRUTH #5: SATAN IS REAL**

1. **Matthew 13:39** “and the enemy who sowed them is the devil...”
2. **John 10:10** “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.”
3. **1 Peter 5:8** Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
4. **C.S. Lewis (picture please)** said that there are two extremes about the devil. One is that everything is demonic. The other extreme is that there is no devil.

5. The enemy has been defeated, but the only way that he can attack you is if you give him a legal right by sinning against God.

6. **John 12:31** “Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. <sup>32</sup> And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.”

7. **Revelation 12:10** Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. <sup>11</sup> And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.”

8. **Matthew 28:18** – Adam and Eve were originally given authority to subdue the enemy and rule the earth (Genesis 1:28).

#### **F. TRUTH #6: THE HARVEST IS AT THE END OF THE AGE**

1. **Matthew 13:39b** “and the harvest is the end of the age.”

2. I believe that as we draw near the end of the age, the harvest increases. Today there are more people being saved than yesterday, or last year. The ratio of believers to unbelievers was 1 believer out of 450 unbelievers; today there are 2.5 believers for every 7 people. 35% of the world's population are believers.

3. Here Jesus deals indirectly with the problem of evil. Why doesn't God just take out people who are evil? Why didn't He take out Hitler before he committed the genocide of killing 6 million Jews? Why wait until the end of the age? Paul Little, the late President of InterVarsity, said, “If God was to wipe out all evil at midnight tonight, how many of us would be around at 12:01 a.m.?”

4. God is wise and His Judgments are true. God will judge everyone on the Great Day of Judgment. God waits until the end because He desires all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, and He wants to give every person a chance to repent and believe in Jesus.

5. Meanwhile, Jesus did take care of the legal issue of evil on the cross — by defeating the enemy and taking back the authority that was lost in the Garden. He expects us to enforce that victory through prayer, peaching the Gospel, healing the sick and ministering deliverance.

#### **G. TRUTH #7: THERE ARE HARVEST ANGELS**

1. **Matthew 13:39c** “and the reapers are angels.”

2. Angels on assignment: healing angels, angels like Gabriel to announce the birth

of the Messiah, angels like Michael against the prince of Persia and other principalities (Daniel 10). There are also Harvest Angels. Angels are to help believers with the harvest.

## **H. TRUTH #8: HEAVEN AND HELL ARE REAL**

**1. Matthew 13:42 “and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”**

**2. Matthew 25:41 “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels... <sup>46</sup> These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’”**

3. There is a heresy that is creeping back into the church called Universalism. That is a doctrinal heresy that rears its ugly head every 100 years in church history.

**4. Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, <sup>4</sup> and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and here will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”**

**5. Revelation 21:5 And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new... <sup>6</sup> It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. <sup>7</sup> He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. <sup>8</sup> But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”**