

Study Questions
Matthew 13 Parables – Part Four
The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares
Sunday January 3rd 2010

1). How does the parable of the wheat and the tares connect with the parable of the Sower?

2). What is the parable of the wheat and the tares providing additional information on?

3) . Mt 13:24 ¶ *Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;*

a). What facts do we know about the Kingdom of the heavens as it presently exists?

b). How could we better translate this opening verse of the parable so as to better understand that which Christ intended through the use of the original Greek language?

c). Who is the man who does the sowing?

d). Who are the good seed? And where do we find them in the parable of the Sower?

e). Why are the good seed called the ‘sons of the Kingdom’?

4). Mt 13:25 *"but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 "But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.*

- a). Who is the enemy who came?
- b). How are the tares described?
- c). Who are the tares?
- d). How is it possible for Christians to be described as the ‘sons of the wicked one’?
- e). Can we find any scriptural examples for this?
- f). When do we see the tares appearing?
- g). What is the purpose of the tares?
- h). What do you think might be significant about the phrase, ‘but while men slept’? And how is this directly related to the work of the tares?
- i). What does all of this say to you about the condition of the church generally and what does it mean for you personally?
- j). Why do you think that Satan would want to work through Christian leaders?
- k). Why do you think that Christian leaders are so susceptible to his leading?

5). Mt 13:27 *"So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 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.*

- a). Who are the servants of the owner?
- b). What do the servants offer to go and do?
- c). What does the owner want them to do and why?
- d). What are we to learn from this for ourselves?
- e). What do you think it would look like for us in practice to leave the tares alone?
- f). How could our engaging with the tares distract us from our focus?

6). Mt 13:30 *'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."'*

- a). According to the beginning of v30 what is to happen to the wheat and the tares?
- b). What does the harvest represent?
- c). What happens at the time of the harvest?

- d). How is the distinction made between the wheat and the tares?
- e). Who are the reapers?
- f). Does the separation of the wheat and the tares happen at the same time?

And if so what does this make absolutely plain for us?

g). How can we be sure, from the scriptures, that we are dealing entirely with Christians here?

h). What do we know about the judgment of the eternally lost?

i). So what happens to the tares at the time of the harvest?

j). What would this mean?

k). How long will the separation of the wheat and the tares last?

l). What happens to the wheat at the time of the harvest?

m). What would this mean?

7). In conclusion what would you say the whole focus of the parable of the wheat and the tares is?