

## **Parable of Tares With Explanation**

**Matthew 13:24-30**

**Matthew 13:36-43**

## **Parable of Weeds, Tares**

**Text:**

**Matthew 13:24-30,**

**24. Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.**

**25. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.**

**26. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.**

**27. The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’**

**28. ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’**

**29. ‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them.**

**30. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’**

**Matthew 13:36-43,**

**36. Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”**

**37. He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man.**

**38. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,**

**39. and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.**

**40. As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age.**

**41. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.**

**42. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

**43. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”**

### **Commentary:**

I. A man (Jesus Christ) sowed good (wheat) seed (sons of the kingdom).

II. While people slept the farmer’s enemy (Satan) came and sowed tares (sons of the devil) also among the wheat and left.

A. While people slept (when they should have been watching) the devil sowed his seed.

III. When the seed, good and bad, sprouted, there, among the wheat, were the weeds.

A. It may be difficult to tell the difference between wheat and tares, weeds.

B. To us they may look alike. Tares looked like wheat and only became clearly distinguishable at harvest.

IV. The servants asked the farmer if he knew where the weeds came from because they knew he had sown good wheat seed.

V. The servants asked the farmer if he wanted them to “weed the field,” “hoe the garden.”

A. No inquisitions leading to torture and death of heretics are allowed.

B. Loving church discipline is enjoined elsewhere and not forbidden here.

C. Violent means are not to be used to suppress error in the church.

VI. The farmer told his servants not to gather up the weeds because, in the weeding process, good wheat plants might be destroyed as well.

VII. Both wheat and weeds were to be left until the harvest (judgment, end of the world) when the weeds would be gathered first and burned before the wheat would be gathered into the farmer's barn.

**A. Revelation 19:20, But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.**

**B. Revelation 21:8, But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.**

**C. Mark 9:44, Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.**

D. The sinful will be cast into the furnace of fire where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

E. The faithful will shine in heaven as brightly as the sun in the sky.

VIII. At the end of the world God's angels will gather out of his kingdom all those who cause stumbling and do iniquity.

A. God and his angels are to do the separating, not men of this world.

1. We are not qualified to declare the relative worth of God's creation.

IX. At the end of the sermon of parables Jesus left the multitudes and went into a house with his disciples.

X. It was here that the disciples asked Jesus to explain to them the parable of the weeds/tares.

XI. Parabolic analogies:

A. Gathering into his barn represents salvation of the righteous.

B. He that sowed the good seed is Christ.

C. He that sowed the evil seed is the devil.

D. The good seed are Christians.

E. The bad seed are children of the devil.

F. The field is the world.

G. The harvest is the end of the world.

- H. The burning of the tares represents hell.
- I. The reapers are the angels at the end of the world.
- J. “While men slept” suggests that Satan must bide his opportunity and may not fully countermand the truth except with God’s permission and man’s inattention.
- K. Gathering “out of his kingdom” suggests purging of the church at the last day, in the judgment of those who have not been true to the faith.

## Parable of the Tares

### Questions

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is like a man who \_\_\_\_\_ in his \_\_\_\_\_.
2. While everyone was \_\_\_\_\_, his \_\_\_\_\_ came and sowed \_\_\_\_\_ among the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. When the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ also \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The owner's \_\_\_\_\_ came and asked, "Where did the \_\_\_\_\_ come from?"
5. "An \_\_\_\_\_ has done this," the owner replied.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ asked, "Do you want us to \_\_\_\_\_?"
7. The owner answered, "No, because while you are \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, you may \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ with them"
8. "Let them both grow until the \_\_\_\_\_." Then "\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ then in \_\_\_\_\_ to be burned; then gather the \_\_\_\_\_ and bring it into my \_\_\_\_\_."
9. The disciples asked Jesus, "Explain to us the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_."

10. The good seed sower represents the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, the field is the \_\_\_\_\_, the good seed are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, the weed is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, the enemy is the \_\_\_\_\_, the harvesters are the \_\_\_\_\_.

11. At the end of the age \_\_\_\_\_ will weed out of his \_\_\_\_\_ all things that cause \_\_\_\_\_ and all who do \_\_\_\_\_.

12. The weeds will throw the weeds into the \_\_\_\_\_ where there will be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

13. At that time the \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ like the \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of their \_\_\_\_\_.

14. He who has \_\_\_\_\_, let him \_\_\_\_\_.

15. Can you always with accuracy determine who in the kingdom is wheat and who is a weed/tare? If not, why not?

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