



Go for God!

The Gospel According To MATTHEW

Chapter 13:24-43

"The Parables of the Kingdom" (Part 2)

Introduction: Let's review, **Chapter 13** is a series of seven parables. The word **parable** means, "to cast alongside." A parable is an *earthly saying with a heavenly meaning*. These parables are also known as *the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven*.

The order of the parables are as follows: (1) *The parable of the sower* (v1-23); (2) *The parable of the tare among the wheat* (v24-30); (3) *The parable of the mustard seed* (v31-32); (4) *The parable of leaven* (v33-43); (5) *The parable of hidden treasure* (v44); (6) *The parable of the pearl of great price* (v45-46); (7) *The parable of the dragnet* (v47-51). These parables span the history of the church.

- In the following parables we will observe Satan's attack on the *kingdom of heaven* through stealth counterfeit tactics. He will plant false Christians amongst true Christians, false churches amongst the true church, and false doctrines within mainstream Christianity. Beware!

> Parable #2a - The Parable of the Tares Among the Wheat (v24-30)

- "*The kingdom of heaven is like*" – Like what?

Observe the parable:

(1) A farmer sows good seed (wheat) in his field;

(2) An enemy under the cover of darkness sows tares, he purposely wants to destroy the crop. The enemy wants everything to be gathered and burned. Tares look exactly like wheat until the wheat ripens and is ready for harvest.

(3) Notice in v25 that this subversive event took place "*while men slept*." Let's read the following exhortations in Scripture to be "*watchful*" - Matt 26:40-41; Acts 20:29-31; 1 Thess. 5:1-11.

(4) The owner is waiting for the evidence of a ripe harvest to the last stalk, then the rapture will take place and judgment will follow. To be continued . . .

> Parable #3 - The Parable of the Mustard Seed (v31-32)

- A *mustard seed* was a plant which grew wild along roadsides and in fields, reaching a height of about 4.6 meters (**15 feet**). The black mustard of Palestine seems to be the species to which Jesus referred (Matt 13:31-32; Mark 4:31-32; Luke 13:19).

It was cultivated for its seeds which were used as a condiment and for oil. The mustard seed was the smallest seed known in Jesus' day (Matt 13:32). Nevertheless, Jesus said that if one has faith as a mustard seed, he can move mountains (Matt 17:20) or transplant a mulberry tree in the sea (Luke 17:6).¹

- In this parable the *kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, that seed represents Christ*. The tree itself represents Christendom into the future, but within the tree birds will lodge, these birds represent evil.

¹ Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

This is understood through a theological term known as “**expositional constancy**” meaning the birds were part of the “**wicked one**” according to the first parable in verses 4 and 19 (that is, *the parable of the sower*); which means we would maintain the birds to be wicked in this parable.

Notice the birds are “nesting” in the tree; Christianity has become a comfortable place for other religions, cults, ideologies (evolution, humanism, immoral lifestyles, etc.) and compromised beliefs.

> Parable #4 - The Parable of Leaven (v33-34)

- Throughout the Bible leaven is used as a symbol of evil, it occurs 98 times.

- Jesus used leaven to picture:

(1) *hypocrisy* - Luke 12:1 - *He began to say to His disciples first of all, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy."*

(2) *false teaching* - Matthew 16:6-12 - *Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees." And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have taken no bread." But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread? Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up? How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? — but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.*

- Paul used leaven to picture carnality in the church 1 Corinthians 5:1-12;

and false doctrine - Galatians 5:6-10 - *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.*

A small amount of leaven is placed in the three measures of meal, the church, and over time the entire church has been corrupted.

- We find the following warnings in:

2 Timothy 4:1-5 (*not able to endure sound doctrine*);

2 Thessalonians 2:1-11 (*the falling away, apostasy*);

Revelation 3:14-22 (*Church of Laodicea, “lukewarm”*).

> Parable #2b – The Parable of the Tares Among the Wheat (Explained) (v36-43) (v34-35) Matthew quotes Psalm 78:2 on why Jesus speaks in parables.

(v36-43) Jesus further explains “*The Parable of the Tares Among the Wheat*”

– We recognize that the tares are the sons of the wicked one.

- We must beware of Satan’s counterfeits:

(1) Satan has counterfeit messages! - 2 Corinthians 11:1-4 - *Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly — and indeed you do bear with me. For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from*

the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted — you may well put up with it!

(2) Satan has counterfeit messengers! - 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 - *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.*

(3) Satan presents a counterfeit Gospel! - Galatians 1:6-9 - *I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.*

(4) Satan has a counterfeit church! – Revelation 3:14-22 (Laodicea, the lukewarm church.)

At the end of the age,

(5) Satan will produce a counterfeit Christ! - 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12.

- Observe that those who *offend God and practice lawlessness* (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21; 2 Thess. 1:1-10; Rev. 20:11-15) will be cast into the *furnace of fire*; there will be *wailing and gnashing of teeth*. But the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

> ARE YOU SAVED? IF NOT, THEN GET SAVED NOW, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!!

- Jesus said in John 3:16-21 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."*

- In Romans 10:9-13 - *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.

For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."