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# Matthew 13 Parables

— Session 4 - The Parable of the  
Wheat & Tares —

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43



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Matt 13:24

Matt 13:36-38a

Parable of the Wheat & Tares	Jesus' Interpretation of the Parable
v24 - presented to the multitude	v36 - shared only with the disciples
v24 - man sowed good seed in his field	v37 - man = Son of Man v38 - field = the world good seed = sons of the kingdom

- **A man sowing good seed in his field** ~ Jesus again used an agricultural metaphor. He identified specific elements of the parable to help us understand His message.
- **"Son of Man"** ~ Jesus' primary title for Himself throughout the Gospel of Matthew (Matt 8:20; 9:6; 10:23; 11:19; 12:8,32,40; 16:13,27-28; 17:9,12,22; 18:11; 19:28; 20:18,28; 24:27,30,37,39,44; 25:31; 26:2,24,45,64).
- **"seed"** ~ **sons of the kingdom**. As in the first parable, the seed in this parable equates to people.
- Those who come to faith in Christ during the kingdom's postponement are described as "sons" and "heirs" (Gal 4:6-7).

**Matt 13:25**

**Matt 13:38b-39a**

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v24 - man sowed good seed in his field	v37 - man = Son of Man v38 - field = the world good seed = sons of the kingdom
v25 - at night his enemy sowed tares in the field and went away	v38 - tares = sons of the evil one v39 - enemy = the devil

- **enemy** (*echthros*)  
~ a hateful or hostile person; an adversary or foe.
- **tares** (*zizanian*) ~ produce grain that is unhealthy, but they are almost indistinguishable from wheat until the heads of grain are formed.
- the **devil** ~ rules over the *kosmos* (1 John 5:19), is called “the god of this world” (2 Cor 4:3-4), disguises his servants as servants of righteousness (2 Cor 11:13-15), counterfeits the things of God with false religious systems (1 Tim 4:1-2; 2 Tim 3:2-6; 2 Pet 2:1-3; 2 John 1:7-11; Jude 1:4).
- “**sons of the evil one**” ~ people under the influence & control of the devil; almost indistinguishable from “sons of the kingdom.”

## Matt 13:26-30

- Mature **tares** stand tall above the ripe wheat stalks in the entire field and could only have been planted deliberately.

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v25 - at night his enemy sowed tares in the field and went away	v38 - tares = sons of the evil one v39 - enemy = the devil
v26 - after the plants bore grain the tares became evident v27 - his slaves asked why there are tares v28 - he said an enemy had done this; his slaves asked about pulling them up v29 - he said "No, the wheat would be uprooted with them" v30 - both grow together until the harvest; reapers gather the tares and bundle for burning; wheat will be gathered into the storehouse	<i>(no explanation by Jesus)</i>

- Removing the tares would result in the loss of that year's crop.
- Both will grow together throughout their lifecycle and will only be separated at the time of the harvest.

## Matt 13:39b-43

- **“end of the age”** ~ future event when “sons of the kingdom” will be separated from “sons of the evil one” at the return of the King to establish His kingdom.
- **“angels”** ~ gather evil ones for judgment; “sheep & goats” are living survivors of the Tribulation.

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(original parable ended above)	v39 - harvest = the end of the age reapers = angels v40 - just as the tares will be burned, so it will be at the end of the age v41 - Son of Man will send angels to gather all unbelievers v42 - who will be cast into the fiery furnace v43 - righteous ones will enter the kingdom of their Father

## Summary: *Parable of the Wheat & Tares*

1. There will be a long period of time between Jesus' rejection as King and His eventual coming in glory, but what God promised *will* happen.
2. *When?* The kingdom will be established at the "end of the age."
3. Throughout the intervening time period there will be *tares* among the *wheat* – "sons of the kingdom" living side by side with "sons of the evil one."
4. There will be a wide variety of counterfeit religious systems that the devil will use to lead people away from the one true God.

Separation and judgment will occur when Jesus begins to set up His millennial kingdom. In Matt 13:24-30, 36-43 we see a "preview in parable" of Jesus' prophecy in Matt 25:31-46.