
"But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear." (Matthew 13:16)

I. Why Did Jesus teach the parables?

- a. The parables give light to those with trusting and searching hearts, but they bring darkness to the indifferent and unrepentant. Those who *have ears* to hear let them hear.
 1. Jesus did not teach in parables to confuse or condemn people. He sought to excite interest and arouse curiosity.
- b. Notice that the *Parable of the Sower* does *not* begin with the "The kingdom of heaven is like" because it describes how the kingdom begins. It begins with the preaching of the Word.
- c. The *Parable of the Weeds* begins with "The kingdom of heaven may be compared" which means the kingdom has begun, but with opposition through imitation.

II. Weeds and Wheat

- a. The weeds are false Christians who are produced through false doctrine.
- b. The Sower is aware of the enemy sowing "weed seeds", but He allows it to happen. Why? Another way to say the same question, Why is evil in the world?
- c. Evil came and exists as a result of the selfishness of man.
- d. The text gives us insight into some kingdom truths: 1) Satan cannot uproot the plants, but he is allowed to plant among the good. 2) In this parable the seed is not the Word of God, but the people who have been transformed by the Word. 3) The field is not hearts, but the world.
- e. Christ sows or positions true believers in various places to bear fruit (John 12:23-26), but wherever Christ sows a true Christian, Satan comes and sows a counterfeit.
- f. When God's people go to sleep, Satan works. The enemy works through power of "words" when we do not expect it.
- g. Satan sows his seed not *alongside* the good plants, but right in the middle of the wheat. In the middle ...
- h. The primary mission of the Evil One is to operate not outside the church, but in the midst of her.
 1. "Wherever God builds a House of Prayer, the devil builds a chapel there."
- i. Our task is not to investigate and pull up the weeds (that would be a distraction), but we sow the Word and bear fruit. (Weed control)
- j. God will gather the tares and burn them, but some of the gathering (bundling) is occurring right now in various religious groups.
- k. Is it more difficult to tell the false from the truth today?
- l. As the weed and wheat grow, we are to watch for fruit. Are you a weed or are you wheat? Wheat bears fruit.

III. Personal Application

- a. This informs us that the Word begins, establishes, and strengthens the kingdom
- b. The Word is a sword of separation and it a discernor of the hearts. (Hebrews 4:12) The Word reveals to us the authentic and who truly belongs to God.
- c. This rings true from these parables, we cannot hear or believe what is true unless our hearts are willing to understand the truth.