

Food For Thought Bible Studies



The Parables Of Jesus
Series 2 Booklet 2

Outline Of The Parables

I. Teaching Parables

- A. About the Kingdom of God
 - 1. The Four Soils (Matt. 13:3-8; Mk 4:3-9; Lk 8:5-8)
 - 2. The Weeds (Matt. 13:24-30)
 - 3. The Mustard Seed (Matt. 13:31, 32; Mk 4:30-32; Lk 13:18,19)
 - 4. The Yeast (Matt. 13:33; Lk 13:20,21)
 - 5. The Treasure (Matt. 13:44)
 - 6. The Pearl (Matt. 13:45,46)
 - 7. The Fishing Net (Matt. 13:47-50)
 - 8. The Growing Seed (Mk 4:26-29)
- B. About Service and Obedience
 - 1. The Workers in the Vineyard (Matt. 20:1-16)
 - 2. The Loaned Money (Matt. 25:14-30)
 - 3. The Nobleman's Servants (Lk 19:11-27)
 - 4. The Servant's Role (Lk 17:7-10)
- C. About Prayer
 - 1. The Friend at Midnight (Luke 11:5-8)
 - 2. The Unjust Judge (Lk 18:1-8)
- D. About Neighbors- The Good Samaritan (Lk 10:30-37)
- E. About Humility
 - 1. The Wedding Feast (Lk 14:7-11)
 - 2. The Proud Pharisee and the Corrupt Tax Collector (Lk 18:9-14)
- F. About Wealth
 - 1. The Rich Fool (Lk 12:16-21)
 - 2. The Great Feast (Lk 14:16-24)
 - 3. The Shrewd Accountant (Lk 16:1-9)

II. Gospel Parables

- A. About God's Love
 - 1. The Lost Sheep (Matt. 18:12-14; Lk 15:3-7)
 - 2. The Lost Coin (Lk 15:8-10)
 - 3. The Lost Son (Lk 15:11-32)
- B. About Thankfulness- The Forgiven Debts (Lk 7:41-43)

III. Parables of Judgment and the Future

- A. About Christ's Return
 - 1. The Ten Bridesmaids (Matt. 25:1-13)
 - 2. The Faithful and Wise Servant (Matt. 24:45-51; Lk 12:42-48)
 - 3. The Traveling Homeowner (Mk 13:34-37)
- B. About God's Values
 - 1. The Two Sons (Matt. 21:28-32)
 - 2. The Wicked Farmers (Matt. 21:33-41; Mk 12:1-9; Lk 20:9-16)
 - 3. The Unproductive Fig Tree (Lk 13:6-9)
 - 4. The Wedding Feast (Matt. 22:1-14)
 - 5. The Unforgiving Debtor (Matt. 18:23-35)

The Parables Of Jesus

The Weeds

“Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

Matt. 13:9

Synopsis

Understanding the first parable concerning the kingdom of God (parable of The Soils) was vital to understanding the following parables. So far, we see that the main people participating in the kingdom are sowers (teachers), seeds (the Word), and soils (you and I).

The parable of The Weeds describes the kingdom of God as consisting of both good and bad seed. The next two parables, the Mustard Seed and The Yeast, explain the small beginnings of the Church or kingdom of God. These three parables in particular will help you understand the *progression* of the kingdom of God (what happened after the Church began). He wanted to ensure that his disciplines understood things that would occur after the day of Pentecost. The Soils explained how people come to God or reject God. The Weeds tells us that it is not enough for a person to accept The Word, but he must also maintain it.

(Titus 3:8) (Heb.6:1)

The Parable of The Weeds (Matt.13:24-30;36-43)

Like the parable of The Soils, we have a sower, some good seed, and a field or ground. (Matt. 13:24) What is different is now there is introduced bad seed from a corrupt sower, the devil. (Matt. 13:26, 28,39) In the parable of The Soils there was only good seed, various forms of good and bad soils, and the “seed” was interpreted as The Word. However, in this parable the “good seed” is the disciples or followers of Jesus.

The parable explains that the sower (the Son of Man) (Matt. 13:37) sowed good seed in His field (the kingdom of God). As the seeds began to sprout and come up, strangely there were weeds (tares) also. (v.26) His servants (that’s you & I) came and asked Him, “Didn’t you sow good seeds only? Why are there weeds also?” (v.27) His response was “An enemy has done this”, who we know to be the devil. (v.39) The servants then asked Him, “Would you like us to go pluck out the weeds?” (v. 28) Instead of demanding immediate removal, He calmly responds, “No, because while you are attempting to gather up the weeds you will root up the wheat with it. Let them grow together until it’s time to harvest.” (v. 30) The time of harvest is the second coming of Jesus at the end of the world. (v.39-43)

What This Parable Is Saying

True saints and false saints both exist in the Church or kingdom of God. This occurs for the benefit of the true saints. Unlike the wayside or stony places, these are people who originally were good soil. They accepted the Word with gladness and applied it to their lives. However, as they began to grow they were turned aside by the devil’s demises. (Gal. 5:7) A “tare” is a weed that looks very much like a blade of wheat. However, as it matures the grains it produces are black and uneatable. Even Judas,

Jesus' own disciple, was originally good. The devil entered into him later at the Last Supper. (John 13:27) Out of Paul's own converts came false teachers, and John warned to "try the spirits". (I John 4:1) False teachers are those who preach doctrines that differ from the apostles' doctrine. (Gal. 1:8) In God's house there are both vessels of honor and of dishonor (II Tim. 2:20), but God has a purpose for all of them. The presence of "weeds" helps the "wheat" grow stronger. As root systems interweave together they make each other more stable beneath the ground. If there were no "vessels of dishonor", how could you develop your sense of discernment? How could you grow stronger if you had no resistance? If the weeds are removed before harvest, *it would weaken the wheat's root system, injuring it and causing it to produce less.* God's intention for keeping the weeds around is to strengthen you and give you a chance to grow. God's ultimate desire is for all men to repent, however, He is especially patient with those who are seeking Him in truth. (II Pet. 3:9) The purpose of His waiting to harvest, is not for the sake of the weeds but for the sake of the saints. He is giving you time to mature, so that when He comes you, the Bride of Christ, will be spotless to meet Him. (I Thess. 5:23) (Isa. 61:10&11) (James 1:3&4) In the last days, deception will be incredibly severe, and He will speed up His return for the sake of the elect. (Mark 13:20) In other words, God is giving His people every opportunity to draw closer to Him and sparing us of any temptation that is too much for us! (I Corinthians 10:13) He is not putting on you more than you can bear but is carefully picking battles He knows you can win! (II Cor. 10:4-6)

What This Parable Is Not Saying

Many have incorrectly used this parable for stating that church discipline is not needed. A careful study of the epistles proves that church discipline was not only taught but exercised by the apostles. (I Cor. 5:1-13) It takes discernment to determine if correction or love is needed. (I Cor. 4:21) (II Cor. 2:5-8) Every effort should be taken to restore an erring brother or sister. (Gal. 6:1) However, Paul instructs to avoid those who persistently and purposely live contrary to the doctrine despite discipline. (Rom. 16:17) Paul advised to remove those who continually cause trouble. (I Tim. 1:18-20) The parable is simply stating that God will not do anything about them until His return. Then they will be cast into utter darkness forever. (Matt. 13:40) In the meantime, pastors and church authorities are instructed to promote order in the churches. Others feel that this parable is only referring to the God's kingdom on earth, the Church, and not His kingdom in heaven. This is true. Yet, how you act in God's kingdom on earth determines whether or not you end up in His kingdom in heaven! How you get salvation is important, but how you live after that is just as significant! In the beginning of this parable, we can readily see that He is referring to "wheat" and "tares" within the Church. However, **verses 40-43** describe the wheat and the tares' fate. The weeds are gathered and burned with fire for eternity, whereas the wheat are gathered and will "shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Matt. 13:43), that is to say, heaven. We are all God's servants or vessels, used for a particular purpose. Judge yourself whether or not you are right with God! (Rom. 14:4,10)

If we are to enter into the rest God has prepared for us, we must persevere and continue to grow in Christ! (Heb. 3:12-14; 4:1-2,11)

Food For Thought Bible Study Mission

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

-Ephesians 4:12

- To encourage saints to engage in personal and group home Bible studies
- To equip saints with an accessible material that is easy to teach
- To provide a thought-provoking lesson that is both encouraging as well as challenging

Church Information

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Service Times

Sunday School 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
Tuesday Night Life Application Bible Study 7:30 PM
Gravity Student Ministries Tuesday 7:15 PM

