

# The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares

*The Parables of Jesus #2*

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Matthew 13:24-30 (Black Bibles - NT page 11  
Blue Bibles – page 475))

*<sup>24</sup> Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. <sup>27</sup> The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ <sup>28</sup> And he said to them, ‘An enemy has done this!’ The slaves \*said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’ <sup>29</sup> But he \*said, ‘No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”*

Jesus is giving us instructions for living in this decaying world.

## Everything in this parable is in twos:

1. The two planters (vs. 37-38)

*<sup>37</sup> And He said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, <sup>38</sup> and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one;*

The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man.

The sower of the evil seed is Satan.

2. The two plants – seed (v. 38)

*<sup>38</sup> and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one;*

The good seed is the children of God.

The bad seed is the children of the devil.

John 8:44

*“You are of your father the devil...*

3. The two plans (vs. 27-30, 39)

*<sup>27</sup> The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ <sup>28</sup> And he said to them, ‘An enemy has done this!’ The slaves \*said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’ <sup>29</sup> But he \*said, ‘No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”*

*<sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels.*

Remove the tares now.

Remove the tares at the harvest.

4. The two prospects (vs. 40-43)

*<sup>40</sup> So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, <sup>42</sup> and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.*

Though the righteous and unrighteous are together in the world, yet at that great day they will be parted.

Three applications:

1. The important place Christians occupy in the world (v. 37)  
*<sup>37</sup> And He said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man,*
2. The impossibility of changing the world

Screen only: "God didn't call me to clean up the ponds. He called me to fish out of it." J. Vernon McGee

Church (Ecclesia) – called out ones

3. The invitation for tares to become wheat

2 Peter 3:7-9

*<sup>7</sup> But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.*

*<sup>8</sup> But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

*<sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*