

# The Wheat And The Tares

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

Faith Portal Church

**ADULT**

Unit 3 Lesson 3

## Supplemental Texts

Matt 7:15-20

## Focus Verse

“Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.” – Matthew 13:30

## Introduction

This parable is similar to the preceding parable but with a different view. The previous one presents the different types of hearers of the word of God; whereas the parable of the wheat and tares (weeds) shows the different members in the churches, where some are akin to wheat and some to tares. Ultimately, you should be able to identify what you are: the wheat or the tares?

## Deeper Look

### **A Man Sowed Good Seed – Matt 13:24-30**

The “kingdom of heaven” is a kingdom wherein Jesus Christ reigns and rules as King. In this kingdom, the will of God is fulfilled. And the kingdom is the Church, made up of God’s children. The Gospel of the kingdom transforms sinners into the children of the kingdom, who then bring forth good fruit in their lives. Jesus says, “by their fruits ye shall know them” — Matt 7:20.

While men slept (“in the night,” when the saints are unaware and lukewarm), the enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat with the intention to destroy them. The tares are likely a degenerate type of wheat, which has a great resemblance to true wheat in growth and form. Hence, it is difficult to identify and separate tares from wheat while growing together. Wheat, when ripe, bears fruit and tares do not; thus, making the distinction easier. Upon recognition of the tares and the request to remove them, the Householder told his servants that the wheat and the tares should be allowed to grow together until harvest, at which time they will be separated by reapers who can do the job better than the servants without causing harm to the wheat.

### **Declare Unto Us The Parable – Matt 13:36-43**

Jesus teaches that we should expect hypocrites in the churches who will conduct themselves similarly as the saints. They will be identified, however, by their lack of fruit, but removing them from the churches by the ministers of God will be futile and may cause harm to the saints. So, at the end of the world, the angels of God will separate them to be judged eternally.

## Questions

1. What type of seed did the owner of the field sow?
2. According to our text, the “enemy” came to the field he had no right to. What is the significance of what he did on the field? At what time did he do what he did? What is the significance of the time?
3. Why did it take a while for the servants of the field owner to discover the tares? What was their reaction upon discovering the tares? And what was their suggested plan of action, as a result?
4. The owner of the field disallowed his servants to remove the tares from his field. Is there any justification for this? Explain. How would you be able to accurately separate the “tares” and the “wheat” in your church?
5. Who are equipped with special ability to separate the tares from the wheat? When will the separation happen, and why must it happen? For each question, make a spiritual comparison as it applies to our world.
6. What are the final destinations of the tares and the wheat? Knowing what the tares and the wheat symbolize, which of the two do you identify with? Why?
7. People think there are two opposing kingdoms: the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. But what do you think? Explain within the context of this passage.

# Personal Meditation

Are you a part of the Body of Christ? Are you genuinely knitted into the Church of God? If you are certain you are in Christ, the Heaven rejoices with you. If not, you need Jesus. You just do not want to be a church goer as that alone does not qualify you as a child of the kingdom.

Definitely, our true spiritual identity will be revealed to those with whom we fellowship as bearing spiritual fruit is a critical indicator of our position in Christ (Matt 7:16-20; Luke 6:42-45). To break ourselves from those Satan planted in the churches, we must be in Christ. The reason Satan plants hypocrites among the children of God is to destroy them and their relationship with Christ. But if Christians are diligently faithful to Christ, their fruit will delineate them from the hypocrites who have no fruit.

Caution must be heeded now if you pretend to be a part of the Body of Christ but of no-good intention for the Church. Churches may be deceived by an outward look, but God will not be. And the time of reckoning is approaching swiftly. The judgement of hell is no joke. Be aware!

## DAILY STUDY

Monday	Matt 7:16-20
Tuesday	Matt 13:24-27
Wednesday	Matt 13:28-30
Thursday	Matt 13:36-39
Friday	Matt 13:40-43
Saturday	Luke 6:43-45



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