

The Parable of the Tares (Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43)

Part two—dated 01/09/2019

The word “Church” is used about 115 times in the New Testament. The word “Kingdom” is used about 160 times. A study of the book of Acts along with other Scriptures from the Gospels show that the early church was indeed the channel, the instrument, the vehicle and the vessel for the expression of the Kingdom of God. It was through the church that the Kingdom of God was extended in the earth in the hearts of men. In the 1st parable in Matthew chapter 13, the believers receive the seed of Word in their hearts while in the 2nd parable we believers become the seed. The emphasis in the first parable is “**receiving the seed**” while in the second, it is “**becoming the seed**” of the kingdom. Believers cannot become the seed of the Kingdom until we receive the Word of the Kingdom.

I. The Symbols Used

A. An explanation. Jesus explains the symbols for us.

1. The man is Christ ([v. 37](#)).
2. The seed is believers, children of the kingdom ([v. 38](#)).
3. The field is the world ([v. 38](#)).
4. The enemy is Satan ([v. 39](#)).
5. The tares are the children of the devil ([v. 38](#)).
6. The reapers are angels ([v. 39](#)).
7. The harvest is the end of the age ([v. 39](#)).

B. A word of warning.

Be careful in interpretation here. Don't confuse these symbols with those used in the Parable of the Sower. In the Parable of the Sower, the seed represents the Word of God, and the soil represents different kinds of hearts.

C. The main lesson.

Wherever Christ "plants" true believers to bear fruit for His glory, Satan plants false Christians who oppose the work and hinder the harvest. Christians are seeds, and the kingdom of heaven is a mixture of the true seed (Christians) and the counterfeit (children of the devil).

II. The Two "Seeds" in the Bible

A. [Gen. 3:15](#).

This is the first mention of the two seeds in the Bible. God said that the woman would have a seed (Christ) ([Gal. 3:16; 4:4](#)), and the serpent (Satan) would have a seed. It also states that there would be constant enmity between the serpent's seed and the woman's seed.

B. Cain and Abel.

When Cain murdered Abel ([Gen. 4:1-16](#)) he started this enmity between the two seeds. [First John 3:12](#) states that Cain was "of that wicked one"—a child of the devil! This conflict continues throughout the entire OT.

C. The Pharisees and Jesus.

Satan's seed ("children of the devil") opposed John the Baptist ([3:7](#)) and did nothing when he was killed by Herod. They opposed Christ ([12:34](#); [23:33](#)) and asked to have Him crucified. At the cross, Satan bruised Christ's heel but Christ bruised Satan's head and defeated him forever.

D. The Apostle Paul.

Satan's seed opposed Paul when he first started his missionary work ([Acts 13:10](#)) and all through his life. Satan opposed Paul (as he does the church today) with a false gospel ([Gal. 1:6-9](#)), false ministers ([2 Cor. 11:13-26](#)), false righteousness ([Rom. 10:1-3](#)), and false brethren ([2 Cor. 11:26](#)).

E. The final result.

This enmity between the two seeds will finally culminate in a false Christ ([2 Thes. 2](#)). The "son of perdition" will oppose the Son of God, the "mystery of lawlessness" will oppose the mystery of godliness. The harlot religious system ([Rev. 17](#)) will fight the bride (the true church), and there will be a satanic trinity—the devil, the beast, the false prophet ([Rev. 19:20](#); [20:1-3](#))—to oppose the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the end, all satanic forces will be defeated by the Son of God.

III. The Lessons We Should Learn

A. The hindrance.

Satan opposes the work of God in several ways:

1. He snatches the Word of God from hearts, smothers the seed with worldliness, or scorches the shoots with persecution.
2. If he cannot overcome the Word, he plants false Christians ("children of the devil") wherever the Lord plants true believers. Many people are going to hell, not because of gross overt sins, but because they have a "false righteousness" apart from faith in Jesus Christ.
3. He sits in the branches of "Christendom" and influences what goes on.
4. He plants false doctrine that deceives people.

B. The method.

Satan's chief method of opposing God is through imitation. He preaches an imitation gospel, establishes imitation churches, plants imitation Christians, etc.

C. The task.

True and false will grow together until the end, and God will separate them. Our job is not to try to “clean up” the world, although we should do all we can to better society. This does not mean we should not use discipline in the local church. The church is not the kingdom of heaven. God commands us to judge sin and discipline Christians who would hinder the growth of the church by godless living (see [1 Cor. 5](#) and [Matt. 18:15-18](#)). Our job is to plant the Word in hearts and let God “plant” us in places where we can bear fruit for His glory.

D. The climate.

The “tares” will be bound together at the end of the age. In these last days, we see many organizations and even nations uniting for one purpose or another. We have world church organizations, world banks, world labor movements, world trade organizations, etc. In the religious world, denominations are getting together, organizations are merging for mutual protection. Some of these cooperative efforts may be profitable, but we wonder how many tares are being bundled for the burning?

E. Stay awake.

While we sleep, Satan works. A sleeping church is an opportunity for Satan to plant false Christians (see [Prov. 24:30-34](#)). It is important that we stay awake ([Rom. 13:11-14](#)).

F. Be discerning.

We must “try the spirits” to detect when Satan is at work ([1 John 4:1-6](#)). This is not judging ([Matt. 7:1-5](#)), but rather exercising our spiritual senses to see if people really belong to Christ ([Heb. 5:14](#)).

We need to check ourselves regularly that by mistake or negligence, we may not become tares/weeds. We should check our Heart, mindset, forgiveness level, love level and obedience level. If there are any issues, let’s bring them to Lord Jesus and seek His help and intervention.....This is very important.