

Lesson Twelve: The Parable of the Tares

Text: Matthew 13:24-30

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24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 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.
(KJV)

1. Briefly summarize the story of this parable.
2. What does the sower of the good seed represent?
3. What does the “field” represent? Explain.
4. Who does the “enemy” represent?
5. What is represented by:
 - a. The wheat?
 - b. The tares?
6. Why did the householder not allow his servants to gather up the tares? What do you think it represents?
7. When did the householder say the tares should be gathered? What is represented by “the harvest?”
8. What application, if any, can be made of this parable today?

Notes