

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

## Until the Harvest

Matthew 13:24-43

### Para - bles:

- **Earthly stories with heavenly meanings**
- a placing of one thing by the side of another, **juxtaposition, as of ships in battle**
- a comparing, comparison of one thing with another, likeness, similitude
- an example by which a doctrine or precept is illustrated
- A proverbs

**Holy Spirit - Para-kleet**, He comes *alongside* unbelievers

**Do you have any favorite stories?**

**What makes them your favorite?**

**Or timeless?**

**What about allegories? Symbolic representation**

**Lion, Witch, Wardrobe**

**LOTR** - people try to say it's Christian (it's not), it's more about WWI, good vs. evil, the hearts of men

**Stories that tell the truth about the way things are, tend to be timeless  
No matter the genre.**

*That's the danger with modern cinema, news, books, education, even so-called church...  
It's less story and more propaganda.*

**Jesus is going to tell us a few more stories today  
In doing so, he fulfills more prophecy.**

**[Pray]**

**13:24-30**

## The Kingdom of Heaven

**We're in a spiritual war.**

Ephesians 6:10-13 NKJV - Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual [hosts] of wickedness in the heavenly [places]. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

**Heaven, 1/3 angels fell**

**Battle on Earth**

- For the kingdoms of men - for a time (satan offered to Jesus if...)
- For the hearts of men - for eternity
- Tribulation - War on the kingdoms of men, the temporal kingdom of satan
- Millennial Reign of Christ, proving God's way
- New heavens, new Earth

**Good seed**

*Translated Good, better, honest*

- Excellent in its nature and characteristics, well adapted
- Genuine, approved
- Precious
- Praiseworthy, beautiful

**A parable.** Heavenly story, earthly meaning.

**While the man sowing is *like* God, He is not God *literally***

**God doesn't sleep!**

Psalm 121:2-4 NKJV - My help [comes] from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

**But in a sense, he's allowing evil to have its day.**

**But even in that, God is in charge, 4D chess**

Genesis 50:20

Romans 8:28

**The enemy sowed tares**

resembling wheat except the grains are black

**False grain**

**What a strange thing to do!**

**Jude 1:12-15 NKJV** - These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving [only] themselves. [They are] clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, "to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

*Spies, espionage*

*Moles, double agents*

*During the Manhattan Project - scientist who was a German, claimed to flee Germany and be rescued by England, worked on the bomb itself, was spying for the Russians the whole time.*

*Happens in business. Stealing trade secrets. NDAs.*

**But this false grain not planted to steal secrets. Planted to try to ruin the harvest.**

**To attack the farmer.**

***Sure, it'd take up valuable resources. Perhaps prevent some good seed from growing, affect the yield of the harvest. But the intent was mostly aimed at attacking the farmer.***

**Servants wanted to act quickly.**

**Get rid of them now!**

**But no way to tell them apart - until they bear fruit at harvesttime.**

**Trying to get rid of the fake ones now would inevitably harm the genuine.**

The meaning of this parable? In a minute...

**:31-32**

## Jesus keeps repeating the idea of seeds and planting

Something that they were familiar with...

*Our generation thinks food comes from the store...*

But I think there's more to it than that.

He created a Garden for us.

He loved praying in the garden.

Mary thought he was the gardener at the tomb.

## Jesus likes making things grow.

Are you growing? Around the middle?

In Jesus? In the Word? In love? In responsibility?

Are you letting the gardener have his way with you?

**The least of all seeds - it's tiny!**

1-2mm, like a little styrofoam ball

**Woah woah woah - a tree?**

There's no mustard tree!

It's a bush, like flowery grass in a field.

**Jesus likens His kingdom (on earth) to something that's grown out of hand.**

**Grown unnaturally.**

**It has branches now.**

*What has this thing been feeding on? Is the soil radioactive?*

**1 Corinthians 1:10-17 NKJV** - Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that you all speak the same thing, and [that] there be no divisions among you**, but [that] you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's [household], that there **are contentions among you**. Now I say this, that each of you says, **"I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ."** **Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you?** Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

**Ephesians 4:4-6** NKJV - [There is] one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who [is] above all, and through all, and in you all.

### **Denominations, divisions...**

Unfortunately the kingdom of heaven has grown out of hand. From a small room on Pentecost to millions of churches, denominations, creeds, ...

### **Some divisions are good. Biblical truth vs. ideas of men.**

But if we hold the same core truths - really, the same core relationship with God in Jesus

### **Then division over style is ridiculous.**

### **And the birds of the air...**

Birds...unless it's a dove, not a good example in scripture. Usually a bad sign. Symbol of sin, or the enemy and his workers.

**So we've had fake wheat sown by the enemy  
Now some bad birds come.**

### **Birds of the air**

3 heavens - sky/atmosphere, space/universe, spiritual

**They've landed. They've made a nest. They rest amongst the branches.**

*Never park under a tree branch or a power line...*

**Ephesians 2:1-3** NKJV - And you [He made alive], who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, **according to the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

*All this weird stuff going on in the air right now. At the very least, being used to deceive many.*

**Our division over foolish things gives roost to the enemy.**

**When the church splits, who hurts the most? The sheep.**

**When a family splits? Who really gets hurt? The children.**

That's the tactic of the enemy. **Divide**. Not divide and conquer.

**We're conquered WHEN we're divided.**

Read from *The Jesus Style* pp.30

## :33

### Leaven! Yeast

*(zyme, zoomay ... 90's zyma)*

**So wait, the Kingdom of Heaven is like ... bread now?**

*Sourdough pizza!*

**Galatians 5:9 NKJV - A little leaven leavens the whole lump.**

**All it takes is a little and all the dough will be permeated.**

*Friendship bread.*

**Jesus is telling a few stories with different angles to illustrate the same point.**

**Leaven in the Bible usually illustrates...sin  
And Jesus is using it to describe the Kingdom?**

**While the Kingdom on Earth will affect the whole earth  
for the remainder of the Age of Grace**

- Look at how far the church has reached.
- How it was small, affected all generations, all corners of the globe

*3+ hour podcast on Joe Rogan with a solid believer, apologist.  
Probably the single-most far-reaching gospel presentation...ever  
BILLIONS of views in a matter of hours*

**But The kingdom of Heaven is like leaven?**

**Could Jesus' point in all of these be...the church is not going to be perfect.**

**Of course it won't be perfect, it has us in it!**

And we don't want to be perfect, we resist God. We choose the things of man!  
*Maybe we're not so different than Israel in the OT.*

**Matthew 16:6-7, 11-12 NKJV - Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees." And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "[It is] because we have taken no bread." ... "How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?--[but] to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." **Then they understood that He did not tell [them] to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.****

**The body of Jesus in communion - taken from passover - Unleavened bread  
A body without sin. Jesus.**

**:34-35**

**Without a parable He did not speak to them**

**Remember the purpose? It's sad...**

Because:

- They were not willing to hear.
- They were not willing to understand.
- they were not willing to repent.
- They were not willing to know God.

**And so it was not given to them.**

**Only if they had asked! Only if they had sought!**

**But it didn't take God by surprise.**

God knows the end from the beginning and the beginning from the end.

**If the things of God are kept secret from you,  
if you do not understand God, do not know God.  
You cannot blame God.**

**He is available**

**Isaiah 55:6 NKJV - Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.**

**:36-43**

**He sends the crowds away! again!**

What will the megamall church seeker-friendly "non-p-word" pastors say about this business tactic?

Goes back into the house that the crowd couldn't fit into anyway.

***Here come the disciples again, uh, what does it all mean?***

**The sower - Jesus.**

That's His job. To sow the seed of God. To bring people into the kingdom. To cause them to bear fruit before the harvest.

**Wheat** - believers

**Tares** - unbelievers in the world, but specifically unbelievers claiming to be of the church

**Enemy** - the enemy

**Reaper servants** - angels

**His Kingdom, in this age, is the church on earth**

God cares about hearts, not buildings or maps or specific ground (that's our kingdom)

**What political lines are drawn in the hearts of men for the kingdom of heaven**

**What does that map look like across our world?**

But God made the world and all that's in it. He made every person on earth.

- False Teachers? Devil plants.
- Heretics? Devil plants.
- LGBTQ+ pastors? The devil's agents.
- New age spiritual formation? Doctrine of demons.
- Salvation by works?
- Prayer to "saints"? Prayer to anyone but Jesus?
- Coexist?
- You guessed it...tares tares tares.

***How does our society get to this point? One founded on Christian principles?***

***The church is weak. The church is divided. We care more about whether you've got a headcovering than if our neighbor has heard the gospel.***

**"They will gather out of His Kingdom all things that offend.**

**All things - individually, collectively**

**Luke 17:1-4 KJV - Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe [unto him], through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.**



**Literally “Them which do iniquity”**

Make, produce, cause, be authors of a thing, celebrate

**Condition without law**

- Ignorant of and violating of
- Wickedness

**Romans 1:18-32**

**...who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.**

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NKJV** - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

**Have you heard these parables?**

- Do you know if you're a wheat or a tare?
- Are you growing and producing fruit?
- Or are you taking up space and choking out?

**God wants to be your gardener****God wants you to be a part of the harvest and not of the fire.****He who has hearts to hear, let Him hear!**

Do you have ears? Use them!

Listen to what Jesus is saying!

Repent.

Come to faith.

Be one with God.

One with the church.

Help the Kingdom grow healthily.

Don't give room to the enemy.

Work hard for the kingdom until the Lord returns at the harvest.