

# “The Greatest Stories Ever Told”

*“and He spake many things unto them in parables...” Matthew 13:3*

## Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> AM

The parables of Mt. 13 provide insight into the Kingdom of God. The first involves an Introduction as to how people actually become part of the Kingdom of God. (*Through receptive hearts*)

The next 3 parables introduce us to the reality of “Opposition” to God’s Kingdom.

The first parable reveals how Satan seeks to inhibit God’s truth from taking root (and producing fruit) by either deception or competition. The next three (tares, mustard seed, leaven) reveals how Satan seeks to infiltrate God’s work (once it’s begun) in order to produce Contamination (1 Cor 5:6; Gal 5:9) and Confusion. (1 Cor 14:33) They reveal that Satan is primarily an imitator.

The first of these reveal that Satan plants “False Christians.” Mt 13:24-30; 36-43

**Mt. 13:36** *“Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field”*

## 1. Good Seed: Those Converted By The Word of God.

Vs 38 *“the good seed are the children of the kingdom”*

### A. We’re not natural citizens of God’s Kingdom.

John 8:44 *“ye are of your father, the devil...”* Eph. 2:1-9 *“ye ..who were dead in trespasses and sins...”*

Col 1:13 *“delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:”*

### B. We must be “Born” into God’s Kingdom.

Jn 3:3 *“except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.”*

1) God’s Word is the seed that, when mixed with our faith, produces spiritual conception.

1 Pet 1:23 *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God.”* (Ro. 10:17)

## 2. The “Field” Is The World. (Vs 38) *“The field is the world.”*

A. THE FIELD belongs to God ! *“The Earth is the LORD’S”* (Ex. 9:29; Ps 24:1; 1 Cor 10:26,28)

1) By Creation (John 1:1-6; Rev 4:11)

2) By Redemption. (Ro. 8:22,23)

B. GOD IS CONCERNED ABOUT ALL OF HIS FIELD! (Rev. 5:9,10)

Jn 3:16 *“God so loved the world that He gave His only... son, That whosoever believeth on him ...”*

2 Pt 3:9 *“The Lord is ...longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

## 3. The “Enemy” Is Satan. *“The enemy that sowed them is the devil”* Vs 39

### A. WHAT SATAN CANNOT DO:

1) Satan cannot snatch away all the seed. Isa 55:11 *“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall ... prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”*

2) Satan cannot uproot the true believers. (John 10:27-29)

### B. WHAT SATAN CAN DO:

1) Satan can plant “Counterfeit” Christians.

a) Notice that he “goes his way” after the seeds are planted. Vs 25

(He doesn’t need to hang around, the seeds tend to grow untended!)

2) Satan can “CONFUSE” (deceive) (see 2 Cor. 11:13-15)

#### 4. The Tares Are “Counterfeit Christians.” vs 38 *“children of the wicked one.”*

“Tares” (zizan’ion) Darnel or false grain

##### A. Satan’s a master counterfeiter! He counterfeits:

- 1) Christians or “false brethren” (2 Cor 11:26; Gal. 2:4)
- 2) Apostles or Ministers (2Cor11:13-15; 2 Pt 2; Jude; 1 Jn 4:1-6)
- 3) Gospels (Gal. 1:6-9)
- 4) Churches (Rev. 2:9)
- 5) Righteousness (Ro. 10:10-3)
- 6) Even Christs. (antichrist) (2 Thes. 2:1-12; 1Jn 2:18)

##### B. Notice the similarity:

- 1) Tare Seeds are similar to wheat seeds.
- 2) Tare plants (a type of “wild corn”) closely resembles the wheat. (See Mt. 13:28,29)

##### C. Notice the Difference.

- 1) Different (corrupt) Seed.
- 2) Different position (attitude) (*Wheat bows when it’s ripe, tares remain erect.*)
- 3) Different fruit!
  - a) Different Color: Wheat: light colored Tares: Dark colored
  - b) Different effect: French word for darnel is ivraie (from Latin ebriacus, intoxicated)  
This comes from the drunken nausea from eating the infected plant,  
The Tare “Fruit” is intoxicating but ***poison!***
- 4) Different ***Destiny*** (end). Vs 30

#### 5. THE HARVEST: *“The Harvest is the end of the world.”* Vs 39 (Final Judgment)

A. WHEN: *“the end of the world.”* (When Christ returns. Rev. 19; Rev 14; Mt. 24:36-44)

B. HOW: *“The angels shall gather the tares and cast them into the fire!”* Vs 41,42

- 1) Notice that God commits this critical task to angels, not men. (2 Tim 2:19)
- 2) The “Wheat” that remains will enter the Kingdom and be rewarded according to their fruit.

**NOTE:** *This harvest takes place in part at Death (Heb. 9:22), but it will also take place for the living that remain on earth when Jesus comes to reclaim it. (Rev. 19,20)*

C. WHY: To prepare for the reign of Christ, and then a perfect eternity! *Rev 21:27*

**Conclusion:** This parable teaches that there would be many “Tares” among the wheat.

Since Satan is the master deceiver, (2 Cor 4:4) many tares believe themselves to be wheat.

That’s why it’s absolutely critical that we *“Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith; ”* (2 Cor 13:5)

**APPLICATION:** *We should take a careful inventory of:*

- 1) OUR ***FOUNDATION.*** (Matt. 7: 21-27) *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. . . . ”*
- 2) OUR ***FELLOWSHIP.*** With God: (1 Jn 1:6,7) and His People (1 Jn 3:14)
- 3) OUR ***FRUIT.*** (John 15:1-17; Mt. 7:17-20)

**In the day when all men will stand before God, the significant question for each of us will no longer be what we think of Christ, but what he thinks of us!**