

SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

The Greatest Stories Ever Told

The Parables Of Jesus

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Study Schedule November 2020

Date	Topic	Scriptures
10/28/2020	Parable of the Sower	Matt. 13: 1-23
11/4/2020	The Wheat & the Weeds	Matt.13: 24-30, 36-43
11/11/2020	The Unforgiving Servant	Matt. 18: 21-35
11/18/2020	MIT Chambers	Trial Sermon
11/25/2020	Break	Thanksgiving

THE GREATEST STORIES EVER TOLD
THE PARABLES OF JESUS

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This Week's Lesson – November 4, 2020

Parables: The Greatest Stories Ever Told

Lesson 2:

The Wheat & the Weeds

Matt.13: 24-30, 36 – 43



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Group Discussion: What difficulties can this hostile environment create for followers of Jesus?

- **Plotting** We should not be surprised by the world's hostility to Jesus and to Christians today.
- **Accusations:** Christians have been and will be falsely accused of hate when standing up for Biblical Principles.
- **Betrayal:** What people will do for money! Judas waited for an opportunity to hand over Jesus for 'thirty silver coins' (v.15).
- **Confrontation/Persecution:** Around the world there is intense persecution that is coming our way in the U.S.



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What Is A Parable?

PARABLE = a story used to illustrate a spiritual lesson or moral (told by Jesus in the Gospels)

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Introduction to Mathew 's Gospel

Author: Matthew (Levi) the disciple and former tax collector.

Date of Writing: probably in A.D. 55-65.

Purpose of Writing: Matthew intends to prove to the Jews that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah.

Practical Application:

- Matthew's Gospel is an excellent introduction to the core teachings of Christianity.
- The logical outline style makes it easy to locate discussions of various topics.
- Matthew demonstrates how Christ fulfills OT prophecies.



The Apostle
Matthew



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The Wheat & The Tares



Tares /Weeds



Wheat

Tares - Darnel, which looks like wheat when it is young but loses its similarity when the heads of grain appear on the wheat.

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Read Matthew 13: 24-30, 36 – 43

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1. What crisis occurs at the beginning of the parable (vv. 24-26)?

- **Prosperous Occasion:** A man has his own field and the blessing of having good seed that will grow and be prosperous when planted.
- **Pernicious Opposition:** An enemy seeing the good field and Good Seed sown:
 - Crept in unawares
 - Sowed bad tares/weeds among the good seed
 - Crept away unawares
- **Production Obstruction:** The weeds grew among the wheat – then the tares/weeds appeared.

Note: In the parable, the wheat has already sprouted and formed heads, making it clearly distinguishable from the weeds (v. 26).



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2. The owner's servants offer to pull up the weeds (v. 28). What alternative does the owner propose, and why (vv. 29-30)?

- **The Servants:** Natural/Human Response: Pup the tares pull them up by their roots – an idea that sounded good ...
- **The King: Spiritual/Eternal Response:** A Calm, Controlled and even an Unusual response:
 - **Timing:** Let the Tares and Wheat grow together until the Harvest.
 - **Separating:** 1st gather and dispose of the tares (Binding and Burning) 2nd gather the good wheat.
 - **Gathering:** Collecting The good wheat and bringing into the house/barn of the Owner.
- **Why:** As the two plants grew together, making it impossible to pull up the one without the other.



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3. According to Jesus, what do the key elements of the parable stand for (vv. 37-39)?

- **Land Owner/Seed:** Sower: The Son of Man - Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior.
- **Good Seeds/Wheat:** True Believers/The Church Individual and Universal.
- **Tares/Weeds:** The unbelievers/unsaved – people who have rejected Christ; influenced by the devil – the prince of this world.
- **The Enemy:** The Devil/Satan. He seeks to blind people so they will share in His defeat and eternal punishment.



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3. According to Jesus, what do the key elements of the parable stand for (vv. 37-39)?

- **The Harvest:** End Time: The period of Christ's second coming, and of the judgment and separation of the righteous and the wicked.
- **The Reapers:** The Angels – Jesus as the Son of God has authority over the angels - He sends them to do His bidding (Cf. Mat 13:41; 1Pe 3:22).

Note: There are only 2 types of people in the World – Those in Christ (Saved/Believing) Those without Christ (Unsaved/Unbelieving) – Cf. I John 5:11 – 12.



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4. What is the meaning of the weeds being pulled up and burned in the fire (vv. 41-42)?

- **Swift Judgment:** Those who demonstrate an unbelieving lifestyle – will be taken swiftly and irrevocably to the White Throne Judgment.
- **Serious Punishment:** The tares/unbelieving will be cast into the lake of fire with the devil and his angels.
- **Spiritual Establishment:** The saved – faithful and believing will share in the Glory of the Father in Heavenly Kingdom.
- **Salvation Announcement:** This is the most important message in the world – for the Church to share and for the World to hear and believe.



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5. Like the owner's servants in verse 28, how have Christians sometimes offered to pull up the weeds prematurely?

- **The Crusades (1096 and 1291):** Religious wars between Christians and Muslims over the control of holy sites in Jerusalem
- **The Spanish Inquisition (1478–1834):** Judicial institution established to combat heresy in Spain.
- **Salem Witch Trials (June 1692–May 1693):** A series of investigations and persecutions that caused convicted “witches” to be hanged and many other suspects to be *imprisoned*



“for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”
James 1:20 (NKJV)

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6. Do you see the field as the church or the world— or both? Explain.

Views Of “The Field”:

- **The Church:** This parable warns us against trying to “purify” the church since Christ will separate the sheep and the goats at the end of the age (Matt. 25:31 – 46).
- **The World:** Jesus in the parable, declares the field to be the world. Believers are called to be among/in the world but not of the world (John 17:16).

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Pet. 2:9)



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7. How does this parable help you understand God’s patience and plan for dealing with evil?

- **God’s Patience With Evil:** God is allowing evil to continue to allow in order to give everyone a chance to hear the Gospel and repent (II Peter 3:9)
- **God’s Plan For Evil:** In His sovereignty, God even uses the evil for His purposes (Acts 2:23). Yet He also has set time to judge the wicked.

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” (Matt. 25:14)



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8. What hope does the parable offer Christians?

- **A Present Hope:** God is in control – even despite the evil currently taking place in the world today.
- **A Purposeful Hope:** We have a purpose in Christ; to worship, to live as His disciples and share the Gospel with everyone (HBG, PA, USA and around the world)
- **A Perspective Hope:** Our glorious hope in Jesus coming, eternal life and our heavenly rewards far outweigh the struggles we face in dealing with evil today.

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (II Cor.4:17)
NKJV



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Keys For Living

- One reason that God allows the evil in the world, is to allow for as many people as possible to hear and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ (II Pet. 3:9).
- Christians need to be careful not to take matters into their hands, but to allow for the justice of God to work in His own time (Rom. 12:19).
- Although it seems that evil has the upper hand, God is still in control. In the end evil will not win and the Lord will make all things right.



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