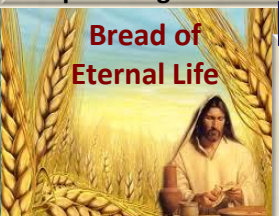




The Compassion of Jesus -Matthew 9:35-38  
 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw

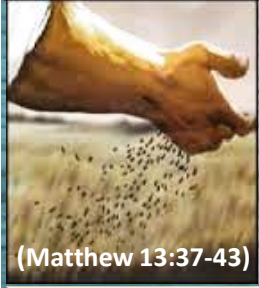
the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." We live in a lost and broken world that is desperate for the good news of Jesus Christ. We need to know that the Pharisees, the religious leaders of Jesus' day, saw the common people as chaff to be destroyed and burned up; **Jesus saw them as a harvest to be reaped and to be saved.** The Pharisees in their pride looked for the destruction of sinners; Jesus in love died for the salvation of sinners. **Jesus' heart grieves over every soul. God grieves because those who die without Christ never know how much He loves them.** Herein lies one of the great truths of the Christian faith: The harvest will never be reaped unless there are harvesters. Jesus Christ needs men and women to bring in the harvest. Jesus' followers today need to see people as Jesus saw them - as plentiful, precious, perplexed and perishing.



**We Offer The Bread Of Eternal Life**

**For the bread of God is He Who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."** Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." And Jesus said to them, "I Am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall

If you have Christ in you then you are now a carrier of this Bread of Life. What are the life giving ingredients in this Bread? **They are "love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."** (Galatians 5:22-23) Jesus was moved with compassion and we are to go into our areas of influence and offer His **Bread of Grace.** We have received this grace from a just and holy God even when we do not deserve it. This grace was only made possible because the Son of God chose to bear the deadly weight of sin on our behalf. As a result, God has called us to extend grace to others, even those who we feel do not deserve our grace and mercy. Our job is not to save the harvest - that's God's work. Our job is to tell people about the Lord of the harvest. The gospel begins with go. The Man Who sowed Good Seed is the Son of Man and He now lives in you. Without going there is no knowing. If we don't go, who will? **"Here I am Lord, is it I Lord? I will go Lord, if you lead me, will hold your people in my heart."**



(Matthew 13:37-43)

He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and

**they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!**

**A Foundation Parable**

This is the only parable outside the parable of the sower where an explanation is given. In all the other parables, you find no explanation. In that sense, it is a **Foundation Parable**, just like the parable of the sower is a foundation parable. Jesus offers an allegorical interpretation to his disciples in private. Like the parable of the sower, the parable of the **Wheat And Tares** offers a perspective on opposition to Jesus, and also speaks more generally to the persistence of evil in the world. This parable is showing two different works being done in the world. And it provides understanding as to why there is evil. God plants good seed that becomes His children of the Kingdom. Satan, the wicked one, plants those who are his offspring.

[Jesus' Interpretation Makes Reference To Seven Concepts.](#)

1. "The Man Who Sowed Good Seed Is The Son Of Man"		
2. The Field	↔	The World
3. The Good Seed	↔	The Sons Of The Kingdom
4. The Tares	↔	The Sons Of The Evil One
5. The Enemy Who Sowed The Tares	↔	The Devil
6. The Harvest	↔	The End Of The Age
7. The Reapers	↔	The Angels

A Parable Has An Earthly Story And A Heavenly Meaning

A parable is an earthly story which has a heavenly meaning. There are two parts to a parable; there is, first of all, the earthly story then, secondly, there is the heavenly meaning. Of course, it is all too easy just to listen to the story but not to understand the meaning. We are not only to listen with our outward ears, but with our heart and understand what God is teaching - the spiritual teaching and meaning, and the religious importance of the story.

The Wheat And The Tares



The sower has sown good seed in his field for a healthy wheat harvest. But in the dark of night an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. "So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well" (Matthew 13:24-26). A bit of botany is helpful in understanding this parable. Matthew uses the Greek term *zizania*, which in modern botanical terms refers to the genus of wild rice grasses. What Matthew most likely refers to, however, is **darnel or cockle**, a weed that closely resembles wheat and is plentiful in Israel. The weed is not poisonous, and may be eaten without harm to humans. But in the field it causes havoc. Sucking up vital soil nutrients and moisture, they deprive the wheat plants of what was intended for them. The difference between darnel and real wheat is evident only when the plants mature and the ears appear. **For one thing, it is not so easy to tell the weeds from the wheat, and for another, their roots are intertwined below the ground. Rooting out the weeds would uproot**

The Enemy  
Tares –Darnell Wheat



The Ears Of The Real Wheat Are Heavy And Will Droop



The Ears Of The Darnel Stand Up Straight.

**the wheat as well, doing more damage to the crop than leaving the weeds to grow. The ears of the real wheat are heavy and will droop, while the ears of the darnel stand up straight. The grain of the darnel is black, in contrast to the whitish color of the wheat. Also, the darnel is poisonous. It was therefore very important to separate it from the wheat.** Because of their resemblance, this could be done only as harvest approaches. You see that we are dealing with two plants which look very similar but are completely different in essence.

God's Timing



The Harvest



The Judgement

God says to let them grow together until the harvest, the end of the age and the coming of Jesus Christ. **"The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels."** (Matthew 13:39) Then He will make a distinction as only He can. **"Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him Who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." So He Who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped."** (Revelation 14:14-16) Christ says that any who offend and practice lawlessness will be gathered and cast into the furnace of fire. Judgment is a difficult and hard time. But that is one of the lessons here. There is a time of judgment

determined on the world. Those who are agents of Satan, engaging in deliberate acts of evil, will face judgment. The modern world doesn't like to hear a word like judgment. **Judgment implies that there are standards, laws and absolutes—both morally and ethically.** But God says there is a coming time of judgment that will deal with lawlessness and unrighteousness. **The key is that it is God's judgment, not man's.** Who among us has not questioned why God allows evil to grow and thrive? Who among us has not wanted to take matters into our own hands and root out the evil in our midst? In the parable the master stops the slaves from doing anything of the sort. This should be a wonderful and comforting truth, because God judges in perfect righteousness and in His time. God has a field, defined here as the entire world; **"The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one."** (Matthew 13:38) There is a divine meaning and purpose being worked out here. God is guiding history and mankind to an end that will fulfill His purpose. It is the angels not any human beings who are authorized to pluck out the weeds from the wheat.

Christians Are Called To Righteous Influence

Christians are called to righteous influence. We are not called to judgment. We are not called to condemn the world. It is not the church's function to go around ripping out the tares and the darnels of the world. That's not what we've been called to do. We are not to attack the world. God hasn't given us that ministry. This is not the age of judgment. This is the age of Grace.