

The End Times
The Kingdom Parables
Matt 13.24-30; cf. vs 18-23

[There are people today who would suggest that God is not really in control as Christians and the Bible suggest, when we say God is Sovereign. They suggest that this is evidenced in the chaos that permeates the Churches and Christians that claim to belong to Him. However, everything that afflicts the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ He prophesied would happen and wrote down in the Word of God. This reveals that God is truly sovereign and everything is happening just as He said it would.]

[The Kingdom Parables have had volumes written on them, most of which take a simplistic approach to the parables. However, a diligent study of the Kingdom parables reveals the Church and its struggles throughout the Church Age. Thus the Kingdom Parables were prophetically given by our Lord Jesus Christ to reveal those things born again Christians would face during this Church Age.]

[The Church Age, or the Dispensation of Grace, consists of a period of time that runs from Calvary all the way up to the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church. Therefore, we live, minister, and serve our Lord Jesus Christ in what must be described as the end of this Church Age.]

[Revelation two and three gives us a description of what the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ will be like throughout the Church Age. We find this description in the letters to the Seven Churches of the Revelation. In these seven churches we find,]

- **Matt 7.12 [A failing love in the Church]**
- **[A Greedy Covetousness in the Church** – Like Balaam, who should God’s people for profit. Filthy lucre is the Church.]
- **[An idolatrous False teaching in the Church** – Like Jezebel who taught and forced God’s people to worship false god’s]
- **[A Severe Persecution in the Church** – Christians giving up their lives for the gospel.]
- **[The Abandonment of the Word of God in the Church** – Which we see in our day through the vehicle of the many modern translations of the Bible.]

- **[The Democratic Takeover of the Church** – With our Lord on the outside knocking to get into the Church (Rev 3.20)]
- **[The Faithful Overcomers in every Church** – There was a faithful remnant in every Church who overcame and served our Lord Faithfully to the end of their lives.]

[So, just what is our Lord trying to teach us through the revelation of the Seven Churches and the Kingdom Parables? **Our Lord sums up his teaching when He said,**]

*[Matthew 7:12-15 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. ¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, **and many there be which go in thereat:** ¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, **and few there be that find it.** ¹⁵ **Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.**]*

[Our Lord reveals to us that the Church, in this world, will grow to be exceeding large but truly born again Christians will be **a remnant** in the midst of the Church.]

[Notice again,]

*[Matthew 7:14 . . . **and few there be that find it.**]*

[We see this revelation throughout Scripture and it is reiterated in our Lord's teachings about this Church Age. The true Church of our Lord Jesus Christ is a **Remnant**. If you are a part of this remnant, then you will be an **Overcomer** in the Church that claims to belong to God in this world.]

[Principle of the Parables – God is still in control. Many people today want us to believe that the apostate church, the corrupt churches are evidence that the Word of God is false because God is not in control of His Church. The Parables reveal that God knew and taught what would happen in the Church that claims to be His.]

[Now, let us look and see how the Kingdom Parables support this teaching of our Lord.]

- **The Parable of the Sower and the Seed (Matt 13.1-9; 18-23)** [– While this is a great parable to study, it is not a kingdom parable so we will not spend time on this parable today.]
1. **The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares (Matt 13.24-30; 36-44)** [– This parable teaches that in the midst of the Church there will be wheat and tares; there will be born again Christians and there will be lost professing Christians. Notice that,]
 - **[The wheat and tares are in the same field, the same Church congregation.** This congregation is the universal Church or professing Christendom throughout the world (vs 37-38).]
 - **[The wheat and the tares look identical;** it is very hard to tell them apart until they actually bear their fruit (vs 26). Wheat gives nourishment Tares are poison.]
 - **[The wheat and the tares grow up together.** The workers are told **not to** try and separate the wheat and tares before the harvest, the end of the Church Age. It is not a Christian's job to try and determine who the wheat or tares are (vs 28-30).]
 - **[The wheat and the tares will be judged by God.** The Angels of God will separate the true from the false at the end of the World (vs 39-40)]

[From this teaching we learn that the Christian Church in this world throughout this Church Age has had, and continues to have, **true Christians (wheat)** and **false Christians (tares)** that bear different fruits.]

[It should not surprise us when men and women who claim to be Christians look like and live like the world and even deny God and the Word of God. Not everyone who professes to be a Christian is Born Again.]

[Importantly, it must not surprise us when very kind, convincing people in the Church are willing to depart from the Word of God, this King James Bible, for what ever reason they give. One willing to abandon the Word of God does not represent our Lord. They are wolves in sheep's clothing right in the midst of the Church.]

[Principle of the Parables – God is still in control.]

2. **The Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matt 25.1-13)** [– We studied this parable last Sunday, This parable is very similar to the Parable of the Wheat and Tares. The Ten Virgins shows that they were,]

- [All waiting in the same room, with the same lamps, waiting for the same bridegroom (vs 1-5). These are a picture of a congregation all in the same Church, with the same Word of God (Lamp Psalm 119.105), waiting for the same Lord to come.]

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Matt 13.24-30

1. The Wheat and the Tares
2. The Ten Virgins

[They were all called to the marriage (vs 6)]

[They all trimmed their lamps (vs 7) – Their Bible]

[Only the wise had oil (the Holy Spirit) in their lamps (vs 8-9)]

[Only the truly saved, having oil, could enter the marriage (vs 10-13)]

[This Parable teaches us that the Church will consist of the truly redeemed, the born again Christian; and the religious, lost, professing Christian who is not really saved. Only the born again will enter the marriage supper of our Lord.]

[What is the heart of this parable? It is that you must be sure that you are truly born again. Religion cannot get you to heaven.]

Matt 13.31

[Principle of the Parables – God is still in control.]

3. **The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matt 13.31-32)** [– This parable speaks to us of **the mutation of the Church**. The Church of our Lord Jesus Christ will become something that God never intended for it to become. It will become the Laodicean Church of Revelation chapter three where **Christ is outside of the Church** trying to get inside (**Rev 3.20**). This Church was the Church **of the** Laodiceans, **it is the Church of the people**, it is a democratic Church where the people rule the Church and not the Lord Jesus Christ. Notice,]

- [**The Mustard Seed is a herb but becomes a tree in the parable** (vs 32) – A mustard plant will never, ever become a tree, it is a herb. **For it to become a tree is an unnatural mutation.**]

[The Parable of the Mustard Seed teaches us that the Church would **MUTATE** into something God never intended for it to become.]

Matt 13.33

[Principle of the Parables – God is still in control.]

4. **The Parable of the Leaven (Matt 13.33; cf. 1 Cor 5.6; Gal 5.9)** [– Leaven is always a picture or symbol of **evil** in the Word of God. For leaven to be hidden in the Church is for sin and evil to be hidden in the Church and once it is kneaded into the lump the whole lump is leavened or evil.]

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1. The Wheat and the Tares
2. The Ten Virgins
3. The Mustard Seed

[1 Corinthians 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?]

[Galatians 5:9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.]

[Hence, our Lord warned us, to prepare us, **that the Church would become a man made religion riddled with sin.** We must understand this tendency and respond accordingly, striving to keep our Lord in and leading His Church.]

Matt 13.44

[Principle of the Parables – God is still in control.]

5. **The Parable of the Hid Treasure (Matt 13.44)** [– This Parable teaches us that Israel will be like a treasure hid in a field. **The Treasure is Israel** not the Church. During the Church age Israel is hidden in the field of the world. Christ gave all that He had to buy Israel, but Israel rejected the Lord Jesus Christ. One day the Lord Jesus Christ will return and claim the field that He owns, Israel.]

Matt 13.45

[Principle of the Parables – God is still in control.]

6. **The Parable of the Pearl Of Great Price (Matt 13.45-46; cf. 1 Cor 6.20)** [– The Pearl is the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, which consisted of truly born again Christians. This parable teaches us that these truly born again Christians are the ones our Lord came and died for; they are the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. How do we know their great value to our Lord?]

1 Pet 1.18

*[1 Corinthians 6:20 **For ye are bought with a price:** therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.]*

[1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that **ye were not redeemed** with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹ **But with the precious blood of Christ,** as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:]

[Matthew 13:46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.]

[Our Lord died to purchase us, His Church, and we are His, we belong to our Lord Jesus Christ.]

Matt 13.47

7. **The Parable of the Drag Net (Matt 13.47-**

50) [– This parable teaches us that there is coming a day when judgment will come. The wicked, the unsaved, even if they have call themselves Christian will be cast in the Lake of Fire. The saved who have been redeemed will dwell with Christ in Heaven. **You had better be ready. Are you Religious or are you Redeemed?**]

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3. The Mustard Seed
4. The Leaven
5. The Hid Treasure
6. The Pearl of Great Price

[The Sum Of The Church Age]

- [There will be a **GREAT RELIGIOUS** system that calls itself by the name **CHRISTIAN**. Everyone professing Christian Church is a part of this system. All Christian Churches are Religious but not all Christian Churches are composed of the Redeemed, and not everyone in them is Redeemed.]
- [There will be many **Born Again Christians** in the midst of this system, but they will be a **remnant, they will be few.**]
- [There will be multitudes more **Professing Christians (Tares)** in the midst of this system **who are not saved at all**. They are religious, and look just like the saved, **but they are NOT SAVED, they are tares and not wheat, these are the foolish virgins.** Religion saves no one, only faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on Calvary's Cross can save any person.]
- [Our Lord Jesus Christ will come at a time not expected and judgment will follow. **ARE YOU READY? Are you an Overcomers!?**]

[Christians **must overcome** over the false Christianity that would deceive them and lead them away from the sure Word of God.]

[By the way, the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ taught us all that He has about the Church age, through the Seven Churches of The Revelation, and the Kingdom Parables ought to give us great Confidence in the accuracy and faithfulness of the Word of God as given by our Lord.]

[The Assurance that even when things look like our Lord is out of control, by the corruption and mutation of His Church, as revealed by our Lord, tells us that God is still very much in control and has warned us about all of these worldly things before any of them happened.]

[**The Faith to be an Overcomer in the midst of His Church.** Our Lord does not ask us to flee His Church because of its corruption, but to stay in this Church and be an Overcomer in it.]

[**What does it take to be saved?**]

[Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.]

[Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.]

[**Your Church Membership and attendance cannot save you!**]

[**Only faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work can save you.**]

Grace Baptist Church, Nov 12, 2023
CrossRoads Baptist Church, Aug 18, 2019
CrossRoads Baptist Church, Nov 16, 2014 Evening

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