



# Tending the Tares

Matthew 13:24-30, 37-43

# Reason for Parables

- Matt. 13:34-35 - "All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, 35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."
- Matt. 13:51-52 - "Jesus said to them, Have you understood all these things? They said to Him, Yes, Lord. 52 Then He said to them, Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old"
- Psalm 78:2 - " I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old"

# Tending the Tares

- “TARES (Heb. ,זֻנִים, zunim), the darnel, *Lolium temulentum*, weed which grows among grain, particularly wheat. The grains resemble those of wheat so that it is very difficult to separate them by sifting, and as a result they are sown together with the wheat and grow with it in the field. Darnel flour is poisonous and gives a bitter taste to bread in which it has been mixed. The tares do no harm to birds, especially to doves (TJ, Kil. 1:1, 26d). Nobody would consciously sow tares in his field. Hence the parable in the New Testament about the peasant ‘who sowed good seed in his fields... and his enemy came and sowed tares in the midst of the wheat’” (Matt. 13:24-30) (Encyclopedia Judaica <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/tares>)

# Tending the Tares

- “From this observe what raging and furious people we have been these many years, in that we desired to force others to believe; the Turks with the sword, heretics with fire, the Jews with death, and thus outroot the tares by our own power, as if we were the ones who could reign over hearts and spirits, and make them pious and right, which God's Word alone must do. But by murder we separate the people from the Word, so that it cannot possibly work upon them and we bring thus, with one stroke a double murder upon ourselves, as far as it lies in our power, namely, in that we murder the body for time and the soul for eternity, and afterwards say we did God a service by our actions, and wish to merit something special in heaven.” *(Martin Luther, Sermons, Vol. II, pg 101)*

# Tending the Tares

- We may not know how the seed sprouts and grows; we simply trust that if we sow the seed, it will produce fruit by God's will and to His glory
  - Mark 4:26-30 - "And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, 27 and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. 28 For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

# Tending the Tares

- The sower did not concern himself with conserving seed or with where the seed would fall; he sowed the seed
  - Psalm 126:5 - “Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy”
  - Hosea 10:12 - “Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.”

# Jesus Interpreted The Parable

- The man who sows is Jesus - Matt 13:37
- Jesus' purpose for coming to the world
  - Luke 19:10 - "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost"

# Jesus Interpreted The Parable

- Psalms 17:8-13 - “Keep me as the apple of Your eye; Hide me under the shadow of Your wings, 9 From the wicked who oppress me, From my deadly enemies who surround me. 10 They have closed up their fat hearts; With their mouths they speak proudly. 11 They have now surrounded us in our steps; They have set their eyes, crouching down to the earth, 12 As a lion is eager to tear his prey, And like a young lion lurking in secret places. 13 Arise, O LORD, Confront him, cast him down; Deliver my life from the wicked with Your sword”



# Jesus Interpreted The Parable

- It was Christ's joy to fulfill this task
  - Heb. 12:2 - "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."
  - Luke 15:4-5 - "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing."
  - 1Peter 1:18-19 - "Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

# Jesus Interpreted The Parable

- The field is the world of humankind - Matt. 13:38
- As much as preachers speak ill of it, as much as many Christians are prejudiced against it, and as much as it is fallen and filled with sinners, it is still the place that God loves, to which Christ came, and from which saints are taken
  - Ex. 19:5-6 - “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”
  - 1John 2:2 - “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

# Jesus Interpreted The Parable

- The good seed is the sons of the Kingdom - Matt. 13:38
- Those who are made disciples
  - Matt. 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age”

# Jesus Interpreted The Parable

- And who remain disciples
  - Heb. 3:14-18 - “For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, 15 while it is said: Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. 16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?”

# Jesus Interpreted The Parable

- The tares are the sons of the wicked one -  
Matt. 13:38
  - Matt. 13:41 - “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”
- Once again, brethren, this is not Christians versus sinners; it is Christians versus professed members of the church

# Jesus Interpreted The Parable

- The enemy who sowed tares is the Devil -  
Matt. 13:39
  - Who tried to tempt Christ and failed - Matt. 4:1-11
  - Who tried to kill the Christ and failed - Matt. 28:6-8
  - Who is now trying to destroy Christ one Christian at a time - 1Peter 5:8

# Jesus Interpreted The Parable

- The harvest is the Judgment - Matt. 13:39
- The present gospel dispensation...
  - Col. 1:13 - “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love”
- ...Will end with the coming of our Lord
  - Matt. 26:31-32; 1Tim. 6:14-15

# Jesus Interpreted The Parable

- The reapers are the angels - Matt. 13:39
  - Angels will accompany Christ when He comes again - 2Thes. 1:7
  - They will separate the wicked from among the just - Matt. 13:49



# Lessons From The Parable

- The problem of the tares will be addressed by the Lord, but not until the harvest
  - Matt. 13:40-41 - “Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 41 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”

# Lessons From The Parable

- It does not imply tolerance for the tares, but consideration for the good seed
  - Matt. 13:29 - “But he said, No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.”
- They may appear to be in the kingdom now, but they will not be in the kingdom of heaven later

# Lessons From The Parable

- The tares will be properly and completely addressed by the Lord
  - Matt. 13:42 - “And will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth”
- In the parable, the tares were burned, and the wheat was barned

# Lessons From The Parable

- The good seed will be blessed and glorified
  - Matt. 13:43 - “Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

# Lessons From The Parable

- Matt. 13:9 - "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"
- Daniel 12:3 - "Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever"
- 1Cor. 15:58 - "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."