
ARTIOS

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Parable of the Tares of the Field

Jesus taught his disciples how to deal with the tares of the field, plants by mankind's enemy—satan.

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One day, Jesus was telling several parables. Of all the ones that he taught at that gathering, the parable of the tares of the field seemed to have taken the attention of the Disciples most because, later, they asked him to teach them what it meant. Not only will this be a great lesson in how the Word of God interprets itself, it will also teach us fantastic spiritual truths about the spiritual battle in which we find ourselves.

Matthew 13:24-30

Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An



*This usage of "enemy" means "hateful," and commonly refers to the Christian's adversary **satan**.*

enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

The situation depicted represented

farming activities, at least on the surface. The Disciples knew there was more to it though because they knew Jesus. They knew that he had a message behind what he was saying. One thing that really stands out is how shocked the servants were to see tares in among the good crops. Today's farmers may not be shocked, but they were back then. When a farmer planted his field, he first prepared it. In this preparation, all visible possibility of tares was removed so that the crops could survive. A bad husbandman (farmer) would not care of his fields and crops like this, but most farmers would. So when Jesus mentioned tares, the servants first response was "where did they come from?"

Jesus told them "an enemy hath done this." Do weeds come from enemies? I don't think Jesus wanted this to be the main message and I believe this is why the Disciples asked him about the parable later. His response also attracted my attention. This usage of "enemy" means "hateful," and commonly refers to the Christian's adversary **satan**. We'll see more on this later. That Jesus boldly declared an enemy is fantastic. He was giving the Disciples and us a peek into the spiritual realm; a place that many deny exists. Jesus never denied this and he boldly proclaimed much of its inner

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workings.

I would like you to take note of several points from verses 24-30:

1. Man plants the good seed in his own field.
2. The enemy came when the farmers slept.
3. They planted their troubles in the same field among the good seeds.
4. They planted their seeds right after the good seeds were planted.
5. The tares appeared when the good seed brought forth fruit.
6. The servants did not know what to do and were highly surprised.
7. The servants went to their master and asked for an explanation.
8. The master had the answer and gave it unto them.
9. The servants asked if they could fix the problem.
10. The master's wisdom prevailed in his response. He provided them with the solution.

The Disciples asked Jesus what he meant by this parable. Jesus' requested declaration of the meaning of this parable provides a greater insight of what we just read.

Matthew 13:36

Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the

field.

As with any scripture, you never guess at its meaning. The Word of God must interpret itself.

Matthew 13:37-39

He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one*; The enemy that sowed them is the

By allowing God's Word to interpret itself, all guesswork is taken out of the equation.

devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

This is the spiritual side to this parable. Jesus is the son of man and he is the one sowing the good seed. He is sowing the good seed in the world. What is the good seed? The good seed are the children of the kingdom. What are the tares? They are the children of the wicked one. Who is the wicked one? He is the enemy, the devil. This point makes it pretty clear who our enemy is. What is the harvest? It is the end of the world. Finally, the reapers are the angels. By allowing God's Word to interpret itself, all guesswork is taken out of the equation. Now, we know exactly what or who is involved.

Matthew 13:40

As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

Jesus told the disciples not to remove the tares from among the good seed. He was saying that he would leave the children of the wicked one among the children of the kingdom until the end of the world. We are the children of the kingdom because we are born again. The children of the devil are allowed to exist among us because of this law. Wouldn't it be nice if they were all removed right now? That would end all of your troubles in life. But this is not available so we have to put up with them until the end of the world when the angels do their work. And just what is their work?

Matthew 13:41 - 42

The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

The angels will gather all things that offend, and those wicked ones, which do iniquity. All of these will be cast into a furnace of fire where there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Yeah! This is definitely when the liberals won't be able to say a word. There will be no negotiating at this time. True

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justice will be served and I dare say that we are all looking forward to this time.

Matthew 13:43

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

What a righteous shining it will be when this takes place. Don't ever let someone talk you out of believing that this day will happen. As sure as the sun is shining, day after day, this day will come. Jesus promised it and we should believe it.

In the meantime, how do we deal with these hateful ones?

Luke 6:35-36

But love [agape] ye your enemies [the hateful ones], and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Follow God's example. We are commanded to manifest agape towards all people, including those who are hateful. Keep in mind that agape is not love. The agape lifestyle is a fabulous way of living because it incorporates great care and discipline every step of the way. The hateful, wicked ones are those

who will definitely bring your commitment and discipline to the forefront when manifesting the agape characteristics listed in 1 Corinthians 13. The word "charity" is translated from the Greek word agape.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no

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evil;

Agape means you will never look for anything in return for your charitable lifestyle. Just live according to agape.

Never fear these hateful people.

Luke 10:19-20

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in

heaven.

They can't hurt you. They can't make you like they are. What are they like? Verse 20 says that they are spirits. Your enemies are spirits and you have power over them (even though they are in people). Since this is the case, then you must get busy believing in who you are and what power you truly have in Christ. In the above parable, the servants wanted to help fix the problem. They couldn't because of the rules Jesus Christ laid out. Today, as Christians, we can make a difference because of the rules by which we contend. We have power over them and we must exercise that power!

Romans 12:19-21

Dearly beloved, avenge [retaliate] not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath [vengeance]: for it is written, Vengeance [punishment] is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy [the hateful ones] hunger, feed him; if he [the hateful ones] thirst, give him [the hateful ones] drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire [warm them with loving kindness] on his [the hateful ones] head. Be not overcome of evil [from the hateful ones], but overcome evil [the hateful ones] with good.

Wow! Did you know this section existed? Contrary to the world's standards of retaliation, we are

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taught a different way - God's way. That way is to give place unto wrath and let God handle the punishment part. He will! In the meantime, do what you can to take care of hateful ones if they come your way. Feed them. Give them drink. In so doing, you will be in a position to overcome or conqueror evil with good. And isn't that what you really want?

1 Corinthians 15:24-26

Then *cometh* the end, when he [Jesus Christ] shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy [hateful one] *that* shall be destroyed *is* death.

In the end, God will rule because Jesus Christ will turn his kingdom over to God. This will happen after the hateful enemy death is destroyed.

Paul taught about people who were the hateful ones of the cross of Christ.

Philippians 3:18-19

(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies [the hateful ones] of the cross of Christ: Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is* their belly, and whose glory *is* in their shame, who mind

earthly things.)

These are earthly people, ones with no heavenly spiritual wherewithal. The problem is that they are troublemakers and are among true Christians. These are not people that seem to be having a bad day once in a while. These are those who are completely and totally into the world, who live 100 % according to the five senses, who revel in their own glory and who mind nothing but things of the world. They stand against the things of Jesus Christ. God is not a

You can never get completely away from the evil ones. But, you can stay close to the blessed ones. This turns out to be one of your greatest defenses against evil.

part of their lives yet they act like He is.

What guidelines did Paul provide in order to exist among these types of tares of the fields?

Philippians 3:17

Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

He said to mark the good seeded ones; those who walk like Paul did, and associate with and among them. You can never get completely away from the evil ones. But, you can stay close to the blessed ones. This turns out to be one of your greatest defenses against evil.

Colossians 1:20-23

And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

You're going to cross paths with people who have converted from the hateful way to the good seed way. Colossians teaches us that the real battle of change is in the mind. A wicked mind causes wicked works. In changing, it is important to change one's thoughts so that the wicked thoughts are removed and the wicked actions are stopped. These actions take place after one is born again. The greatest deliverance begins when a person accepts Christ as his Lord and savior. At this point, he receives a change in citizenship, that into the kingdom of heaven and from the kingdom of satan. It is only then that he can begin to work through

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the mental issues that have enslaved him.

He must continue believing the Word of God, becoming grounded and settled in It. He must be especially cognizant of the hope of Jesus Christ's return, never allowing movement from it. In time, he will see the wicked things leave and the wonderful, Christian things stay.

If you encounter a fellow Christian, but not a hateful one, who refuses to obey God's Word, you can do the following:

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15

And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count *him* not as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.

DO NOT treat him as one of the hateful ones. Far too many Christian sects do this though. Your limit of punishment or treatment is to note that person and have no company with him. Why? So that he may be ashamed. He is not a wicked one. He is a brother. Treat him as such in order to help him change.

We have learned some great lessons from this parable. We have learned:

1. Man plants the good seed in his own field.
2. The enemy came when the farmers slept.
3. They planted their

troubles in the same field among the good seeds.

4. They planted their seeds right after the good seeds were planted.
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6. The servants did not know what to do and were highly surprised.
7. The servants went to their master and asked for an explanation.
8. The master had the

5. The harvest takes place at the end of the world.
6. The reapers are the angels.
7. All things that offend and them which do iniquity shall be cast into a furnace of fire where there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.
8. After all of this, the righteous (we) shall shine forth as the sun in God's kingdom.

Then we learned that the New Testament way to deal with the hateful ones is to manifest agape towards them. The hateful ones are not spirits to fear because nothing shall by any means hurt us. Even though we have power over them, we are not supposed to retaliate against them. Rather, we are to give place unto any form of vengeance. To the contrary, instead of fighting against them, feed them and give them drink in order to overcome their evil with your good. Eventually, God will punish them and that trouble will be over. One of the best forms of defense is to have strong Christian groups. Within those groups, mark the good seeded ones and associate with them. If you do get to help a hateful one convert to the Christian way, know that their battle will be mental to a marked degree and that you can really help them with it. Teach them the Word of God and help them grow into It. Finally, if you have someone in your group who does not obey the Word, mark him and have no company with him until he changes. If he comes to you for help, then help him. No wonder the disciples were so excited to be taught more along this

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answer and gave it unto them.

9. The servants asked if they could fix the problem.
10. The master's wisdom prevailed in his response. He provided them with the solution.

From the insight Jesus provided his disciples, we also learned:

1. That Jesus is the son of man who is sowing the good seed.
2. The good seed are the children of the kingdom.
3. The tares are the children of the wicked one.
4. The wicked one is the devil – our enemy.

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line. I hope it excites you too!

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown

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HIP HIP HOORAY!!