

# While Men Slept

## **Matthew 13:24-30 (NKJV)**

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' "

In this parable, Jesus tells us the difference between the world as we see it now and what it will be like when He comes again.

And I think it answers some questions we have about good and evil in this world.

## **Matthew 13:24 (NKJV)**

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;

This "man" sowed good seed in HIS field. That sounds like a good farmer that desires a good harvest. I don't know too many good farmers that sow fields of worthless plants that don't produce anything of value...

But keep in mind that this man owns the field. It's His. Not anyone else's. And all that HE does to it is good...both His intentions and His actions are good.

## **Matthew 13:25 (NKJV)**

but **while men slept**, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

Who sowed the tares? The enemy.

An enemy is one who feels hatred for, fosters harmful designs against, or engages in antagonistic activities against another; an adversary or opponent.

The enemy is set to destroy the good that was sown. And while men slept...he came...and sowed tares among the wheat and went on his way.

What is a tare?

This type of tare was called a darnel, and it was a type of weed that can not really be distinguished from wheat until the head of grain appears on the wheat at harvest time.

Sowing darnel in someone else's wheat field was a way for enemies to destroy someone's livelihood catastrophically.

Wheat is good for you, it has good nutritional values. And in those days bread was on every table at every meal. (Don't worry it was organic, non-GMO).

Tares were identical in appearance but they were good for nothing. In fact their seeds were poisonous to humans and animals causing sleepiness, nausea, convulsions, and even death.

**Matthew 13:26 (NKJV)**

But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

See it's only a matter of time until you can tell the good from the bad. The difference will appear...it's only a matter of time. You will recognize them by what they produce.

Everything about them may look the same, until the "fruit" is produced.

**Matthew 13:27 (NKJV)**

So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'

Here we see the questioning of the good farmer...Sir...did you do your job right?

Why have YOU allowed these tares to be planted? What did YOU do wrong?

After all, it is YOUR field.

**Matthew 13:28-29 (NKJV)**

He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.'

The good farmer knows the enemy has done this planting of the tares because the enemy is trying to destroy His field of good grain that was planted with a good purpose.

And the servants have a good response asking if they should go and pull out the tares. Let's get rid of the bad..right? Seems to make sense.

But the farmer is a good farmer, and so he makes a good farming decision. “Don’t pull out the tares because you might uproot the wheat with them.”

Until they have reached full maturity...it can be too hard to tell which is which. You could mean to pull up a tare and instead uproot good wheat that just isn’t mature enough to show its fruit.

Wheat berries are large and golden, while darnel berries are small and gray. So even in the early stages of producing, it can still be hard to tell which is which

It’s not worth possibly pulling out something good to get rid of all the bad. The good has too much value to the farmer.

**Matthew 13:30 (NKJV)**

Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’ ’ ”

The farmer says at the end of the season, at the time of harvest...we’ll be able to tell for sure and we’ll separate the tares from the wheat.

The tares will be bound and burned but we’ll gather the wheat into MY barn. It’s for Me!

If you haven’t figured it all out yet...Jesus reveals the mystery of the parable a few verses later:

**Matthew 13:36-43 (NKJV)**

Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.”

37 He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.<sup>38</sup> The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. 39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. 40 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, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 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!

People often wonder why there is so much evil in this world and why doesn’t God just get rid of it.

And the first thing we need to remember is that God has a plan. And He’s going to stick to it.

The Holy Spirit is at work, planting seed everywhere. The people of God **should be** planting seed everywhere. And there’s a lot of good seed out there...

Man it's hard to tell right now and there are those we may think are wheat who turn out to be tares. But then there are those we are sure are tares that will turn out to be wheat.

Jesus says let us both grow together. Let us do our thing here on this earth...reveal what we are. Then we'll be separated. And it's not men that do the separating...it will be done by God's angels at the command of Jesus!

No one will be able to deceive Him.

But I want to jump back to this phrase at the beginning of the parable

**Matthew 13:25 (NKJV)**

but **while men slept**, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

In the parable...the men who worked the field were physically sleeping, no one was watching and this is when the enemy snuck in and sowed the tares in the good field.

When you sleep, you are not watching. When you sleep you are unaware of what's happening. When you sleep the enemy works in the darkness.

So when we take this physical example and look at it spiritually...it requires us to be awake spiritually. To be alert. To be watching. To be a light in the darkness and avoid the traps of the enemy.

**Romans 13:11 (NKJV)**

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

People, it's high time to awake out of our spiritual sleep! There has not been a more important time in your life than right now...it's time to choose to live for Jesus, the One who gave it all on the cross and rose from the dead so that you could be saved.

Saved from what? Being a tare...that gets cast into the fire.

It's time to live for Jesus and be watchful...get your spiritual life right. I'm afraid too much of "the church" cares only of their own salvation, only their ticket to heaven.

So much so that we're so concerned about "our world" that's going to burn one day, that we live an easy and comfortable life, doing nothing for the Lord and His purpose...

If you are in a spiritual slumber...the enemy is sowing tares in your life.

**1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)**

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

How do we avoid that trap?

**1 Corinthians 16:13 (NKJV)**

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

**Matthew 26:41 (NKJV)**

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

If we don't watch and we don't pray...it takes both...we'll enter into temptation. We'll buy into what the enemy sows in the dark. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. We have to submit to the Spirit!

In 2 Timothy it says that "God knows who are His"

- Discernment
- Awakening
- Revival