

# Kingdom Parables

Matthew 13:10-12, 24-30, 36-43

East Berlin Community Church

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## Introduction

- Everyone loves a good story!
- Jesus Christ was a master verbal-painter, a great story teller.
- His stories are called “Parables” -- a “comparison, an illustration, or figure”
  - Good teaching always moves from the known to the unknown. The use of metaphors and similes
  - A parable-- a narrative or extended story conveys one principle point of parallelism. It teaches one main point.
  - A parable differs from an allegory as it is based on reality, or what is true to life.

## Kingdom Parables

### A. Why Parables?

#### 1. His disciples ask the same question.

- Matthew 13:10-- *“And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”*
- a. They had noticed a change in Jesus’ teaching style from His earlier discourses
  - 1) Earlier message: *“Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand”.*
  - 2) Sermon on the Mount Jesus uses illustrations to illumine the points that He was making.
- b. But Jesus is no longer making the points. He is telling the stories without the punchline.

#### 2. Jesus teaches in parables to REVEAL TRUTH and to CONCEAL TRUTH.

- Matthew 13:11-12-- *“He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”*
- a. **Parables REVEAL TRUTH to His followers**
  - 1) *“Whoever has to Him more will be given, and he will have abundance”*
  - 2) Good teaching builds *“line upon line and precept upon precept.”*
  - 3) Indictment: Some had failed to learn the “A, B, Cs” and thus were not ready for “D, E, and F”--
    - Hebrews 5:11-12-- *“of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”*
  - 4) The TRUTH centers on the *“Knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven”*
    - a) A “mystery” in Scripture is something that was concealed in the Old Testament times but revealed in the New.
      - Ephesians 3:4-5-- *“by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets”*
      - Ephesians 3:6-- *“that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel”*
      - Matthew 13:17-- *“for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”*
    - b) The “kingdom of heaven” is the sphere over which the Sovereign God rules.
      - (1) The Jews were looking forward to a millennial kingdom here on earth.

- (2) What they did not foresee was the rejection of their Messiah, and the postponement of the millennial kingdom here on earth.
- (3) The time period between Christ's first advent and His second is the "mystery form of the kingdom"
- (4) Jesus Christ today is ruling in heaven over His spiritual kingdom.
  - Luke 17:20b-21-- *"The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."*
  - John 18:36-- *"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."*
- (5) But one day Jesus Christ will establish His earthly kingdom at His second coming.

b. **Parables CONCEAL TRUTH from those who rejected previous revelation**

- 1) The Jews were exposed to God incarnate, and yet they rejected Him! They refused to receive the divine light that had shined on them and thus no more light is given.
- 2) *"Whatever you don't use, you lose!"*
- 3) We are either progressing or regressing spiritually.

## B. The Kingdom Parables?

1. **In General Terms:** All the parables Jesus taught relate in some way to the *"kingdom of heaven, the kingdom of God"*
  - a. The offer of the Kingdom: Lost sheep, lost coin, lost son of Luke 15.
    - John 3:3-- *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*
  - b. An invitation to enter the Kingdom: King and the wedding banquet (Matthew 22) and the Man preparing a Great Banquet (Luke 14)
  - c. The Postponement of the Kingdom: Ten Minas (Luke 19) and the Landowner and the Vineyard (Matthew 21)
  - d. The New Form (Mystery form) of the Kingdom: Matthew 13
  - e. The Return of Christ and the Establishment of His Kingdom: Matthew 24 and 25
2. **Specific: The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares.**
  - a. **The Story Told**
    - Matthew 13:24-30-- *"Another parable He put forth to them, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man who 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 grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 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?' 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?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 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.' ' ' "*
  - b. **The Story Explained**
    - Matthew 13:36-43-- *"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.'" 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!"*

- 1) Jesus Christ, as the Son of Man, is the One who sows the good seed.
  - 2) His field is the WORLD, not the Church.
  - 3) The seeds are the "sons of the kingdom" that are scattered throughout the world
  - 4) The "tares" are the "sons of the evil one". They too are scattered throughout the world.
  - 5) The harvest is at the "end of the age", at Jesus Christ's second coming.
    - a) A first harvest will be at the rapture of the church when genuine believers are removed from this earth, leaving only the bad seed or tares behind.
    - b) But "good seed" will quickly develop as men and women respond to the gospel preached by the various witnesses during the tribulation period.
    - c) Growing alongside true believers during the tribulation period will be "plants" by the devil, "sons of the wicked one". False brethren will infiltrate the ranks.
      - (1) *How can this be? Doesn't persecution and suffering have a way of weeding out those who are genuinely saved and those who are just pretending?*
      - (2) Satan has always attacked on two fronts: External through persecution and Internal through planting his people among the faithful to lead them astray, to discourage, to deceive.
  - 6) Jesus Christ returns with His angels at His second coming for the purpose of judgment.
    - Matthew 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, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."*
    - a) The evil stumbling blocks who practice lawlessness will be gathered up and cast into hell, the place of eternal torment.
      - 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9-- *"when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."*
    - b) The righteous ones will be gathered together and will enter into the kingdom.
      - Matthew 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!"*
      - Mark 13:27-- *"will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven."*
      - 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."*
- c. **The Story Applied**
- Matthew 13:43b-- *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*
  - Colossians 1:13-14-- *"delivered from the power of darkness and conveyed into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom you have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins."*