Matthew 13.24-50

Sunday August 30, 2026

24 He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, 25 but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. 27 And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' 28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' 29 But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

- The enemy sabotaging another's field was common enough for the Romans to make a consequence for it
    - The weed was likely darnel which resembles wheat in its early stage of growth
    - Weedy rye grass with poisonous seeds
    - Roots tend to intertwine
- The man chooses the best course of action

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." 37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, 42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

- The explanation is clear:
    - Those belonging to the Son of Man and those belonging to the evil one will cohabit the earth
    - The day of reckoning is coming, bringing with it consequence and reward.
        - *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Rm.6.23
        - *And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.* He.9.27-28
- What is our responsibility during cohabitation?
    - *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you*. Mt.28.19-20
    - *Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.* 1 Pet.2.12

[34] All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. [35] This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet:

"I will open my mouth in parables;
I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world."

- Quote from Ps. 78:
    - *Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.* Ps.78.1-4
- In Mt.13.10-17 we discovered that Jesus taught in parables to reveal spiritual truths to those to whom it had been given to know them.
- Matthew now quotes Ps. 78 emphasizing that the mysteries of God are to be revealed – we will not hide them…but to tell the coming generation
    - He intends His message to be heard by those who will accept it

The Kingdom of Heaven is described by way of comparison to those who will accept the Word of God:

[31] He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. [32] It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

- Biological exactness not what is aimed for
    - The mustard seed was the smallest seed planted in 1st century Palestine
    - Technically not a tree but can grow large enough for birds to nest (6-10 ft; 2-3.5m)
- Point to be made is from this small seed comes a large plant

[33] He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

- A small bit of leaven can affect three measures of flour
- The whole amount is now leavened

[44] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

- This man stumbled upon the treasure (good news of the kingdom)
- Nothing this man has is worth more than the treasure!

[45] "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, [46] who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

- This man sought out the pearl; he was a merchant in search of the greatest investment
- Once he found it he liquidated all he had to acquire it

47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. 48 When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- No fish had a choice of whether to be in the net or not!
- No fish decided when the net should be drawn in!
- Not all the fish were deemed desirable – there were good and bad

So, the kingdom of heaven is like:

- a mustard seed: it starts small and grows substantially
    - *But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.* Acts 4.4
- a little leaven: it starts from within and transforms the entire lump
    - *For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.* Rm.8.29
- a hidden treasure: its discovery brings great joy
    - *Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.* 1 Pe.1.8-9
- a very fine pearl: its acquisition brings great satisfaction
    - *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.* Jn.10.10
- a fishing net: it gathers its people to separate the righteous from the unrighteous

The fate of the unrighteous:

- *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.* Rev.20.11-14

The fate of the righteous:

- *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."* Rev.21.3-4