

Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables because

1. it has been granted to His disciples to know the mysteries of the kingdom
2. it has not been granted to the world

(Mt 13:10-11)

I The Parable

(Mt 13:24-30, 36-43)

- the landowner/sower = Jesus, the Son of Man
- the field = the world, the church in the world
- the good seed = the sons of the kingdom
- the enemy/sower = the devil
- the tares = sons of the devil
- the harvest = the end of the age
- the reapers = angels

TARES

2215 ζιζάνιον zizanion

- = a kind of darnel resembling wheat but the grains are black
- = it is a poisonous or 'bad' weed

- tares are almost indistinguishable from wheat until fully grown
 - they cannot be removed until reaping because the roots are intertwined
- tares are among the most destructive weeds
- if the seeds are eaten by humans or animals
 - dizziness, vomiting and even death
- once reaped tares have to be burned

II The TARES

= sons of the devil → false/nominal believers

1. Tares can be men or women, leaders, teachers, or just sheep of the flock
2. Tares are hidden
 - they are difficult to distinguish from wheat
 - they are disguised as believers
 - they look like sheep but they are wolves
 - they are ungodly ... but unnoticed

(2 Cor 11:14-15; Mt 7:15; Jude 4)
3. Tares are devoid of the Spirit and yet can
 - acknowledge Jesus as Lord
 - in Jesus' name prophesy, cast out demons and work miracles
 - have a zeal for God
 - profess to know God
 - follow and serve Jesus

(Jude 19; Mt 7:15-23; Ro 10:2-3; Tit 1:15-16; Jn 6:70-71)
4. Tares are dangerous
 - Satan means to harm the believers
 - to bring them into bondage again
 - to cause believers to stumble
 - tares are like hidden reefs
 - to shipwreck the faith of believers

(Gal 2:4-5; Mt 13:41; Jude 12)

5. Tares will co-exist with the wheat until the end of the age

6. So the wheat can be protected, the tares must be discerned and identified

7. Jesus says that the tares can be known by their fruit → bad fruit ... or NO fruit?

(Mt 7:16-18)

III The WHEAT

= sons of the kingdom → true believers

1. We must keep on testing and examining ourselves to make sure we are in the faith
- (2 Cor 13:5; 2 Pet 1:10)
2. We can prove ourselves to be true disciples
 - a) by continuing in God's word
 - b) by holding fast the word of life
 - c) not turning away our ears from the truth

(Jn 8:31, 47a; Phil 2:14-16; 2 Tim 4:3-4)
 3. We can prove that we are born of God
 - a) by not practicing sin (we cannot)
 - b) by overcoming the world by our faith
 - c) by truly loving God and each other

(1 Jn 3:9, 5:18, 5:4, 4:7, 5:1)
 4. At the end of the age Jesus will clear His threshing floor – He will
 - a) gather His wheat into the barn
 - b) burn up the chaff (tares) with unquenchable fire

(Mt 3:11-12)