

8th Sunday after Pentecost, 7th Sunday after Trinity – 2023

Saturday, 7/22 at 4:00 | Sunday, 7/23 at 9:00

When It Comes to Jesus

Are

You:

**Real or
Fake?**

Text: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Jesus told parables to challenge people to see beyond physical things to spiritual things. **What is a parable?** An easy-to-understand **physical story**, which has a much more important **spiritual meaning**.

During Jesus' ministry He told 55 parables (TLSB 1609).

Matthew chapter 13 records 8 of the 55. For all who are open to understand and be transformed [Isaiah 55:6], *God the Father gives them understanding*. For others, *they hear but do not understand*. Therefore, let us continue with
➡ **openness**, ➡ **godly sorrow**, and ➡ **trust in Jesus!**

1. **The Parable of the Real Wheat and the Fake Wheat:**

²⁴ Jesus presented another parable to 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 tares [fake wheat] among the [real] wheat, and went away. ²⁶ But when the [real] wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares [fake wheat] became evident also. ²⁷ The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares [fake wheat]?' ²⁸ And he said to them, 'An enemy has done

this!' The slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?' ²⁹ But he said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them.' ³⁰ 'Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares [stalks of fake wheat] and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

a. Fake was put among the real (vv. 24-26):

- i. The fake among the real helps us to understand the visible church on earth: The visible church includes those who **SAY** they are Christian or **HAVE** their name on a membership list. Among all such people, 😊**some** know Jesus as Savior and Lord, and 😞**some** do not. The real Church is the invisible Church, *since saving faith is invisible to us.*
- ii. Jesus said to some in Sardis (one of the 7 churches in Rev. 2-3): "...you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead" (3:1b NIV). *Jesus knows everything!*
- iii. How to deal with the fake ones? We let them remain among us and we keep calling them to repent, ***BUT we do not permit their false beliefs to restrain us from telling God's saving truth!***

b. An enemy is the culprit (vv. 27-28a): Today, many congregations are in grave trouble because they have accepted **fake teachings**. *The devil has done that through fake Christians.*

c. Rooting out the fake may harm the real (vv. 28b-29): The roots of the **fake** and **real** are intertwined – *like members of the same family*, so we ♦let them remain and ♦keep calling them to repent.

d. **The separation will be made at the harvest (v. 30):**
Now, the fake claim to be real **but the day of harvest**
will reveal the striking difference!

2. **The Explanation of the Parable:** ³⁶ **Then [Jesus] left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the tares [fake wheat] of the field.”**

- a. **Who or what is represented?** ³⁷ **And He said,**
- i. **“The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man,”** – The Son of God in human flesh, JESUS!
 - ii. ³⁸ **“and the field is the world;”** – the entire earth!
 - iii. **“and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom;”** – Including all the people who ✦by grace, ✦through Spirit-worked sorrow and Spirit-given faith, ✦trust in Jesus for eternal life!
 - iv. **“and the tares [fake stalks of wheat] are the sons of the evil one;”** – Such people:
 1. Do not acknowledge God **or**
 2. Do not have an interest in the word of God **or**
 3. Do not see their need for God **or**
 4. Do not know God’s righteous requirement **or**
 5. Do not have godly sorrow **or**
 6. Do not embrace Jesus as Savior and Lord.
 - v. ³⁹ **“and the enemy who sowed them is the devil,”**
– He is always trying to ruin our lives in Christ!
 - vi. **“and the harvest is the end of the age;”** – When Jesus will return, and this fallen world will end!
 - vii. **“and the reapers are angels.”** – Holy angels!

- b. **Eternal punishment for all the fake wheat:** ⁴⁰ “So just as the tares [*fake stalks of wheat*] are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom
- i. all stumbling blocks – Literally, the trigger that traps an animal for the purpose of killing it. In other words: *all who lead people away from Jesus.*
 - ii. and those who commit lawlessness – Whose lives are *characterized* by wickedness. ^{NAS} **1 John 3:8** “...the one who practices sin is of the devil...”
- ⁴² and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping [*strong inner emotion*] and gnashing of teeth [*pain and anger*].” // “And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever” (Rev. 14:11).
- c. **Eternal bliss for all the real wheat:** ⁴³ “Then THE **RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN** [Dan. 12:3] in the kingdom of their Father. // “[God] will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain” (Rev. 21:1).
- d. **A final warning:** He who has ears, let him hear [*listen*].” // PLEASE hear God’s word and apply it to your life!

Let Us Pray: Dear HS, **TYSM for saving faith!** For all the lost and deceived, please take *swift* and *radical* action to ✦open their eyes to the truth and ✦lead them to repentance!

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