

Jun 10, 2018



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

**Lesson Leaders:**

James Haymon  
Jose Cisneros

**Class Leaders:**

Inreach: Pat Hester  
Secretary: Mary Clark  
Deacon: C M Hester

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
People will not be judged by the way we see them, but by the way God sees them.

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**  
One day before God's judgment bar  
All sham and pretense will take flight;  
We'll all be known for who we are—  
There'll be no hiding from His sight.  
—D. De Haan

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*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.*  
(Matt 13:30 NKJV)  
*(from "Our Daily Bread", Dec 18, 2001)*

**Series: Justice in the  
New Testament**  
**UNIT: God is Just & Merciful**  
  
**NEXT WEEK**  
**Jesus Teachings  
about Justice  
(Matt 15:1-9)**

## Parables of God's Just Kingdom Matthew 13:24-33

### Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson examines some basic truths about the development of God's Kingdom through **Parables of God's Just Kingdom**. The study's aim is to expect that many people who do not truly know the Lord will profess faith in Him. The study's application is to acknowledge our limited understanding of people's hearts and trust the Lord to judge them perfectly.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

### Lesson Introduction and Background

It would be nice to envision the kingdom of God expanding into the world through the ministry of the church, by means of the gospel, in an effortless way, without any obstacles. It would be pleasant if everyone would cooperate with God's people and we could consistently see masses of people being saved and growing in faith. However, the world is not like that. Even the church is less than completely pure. In this section of Matthew's Gospel, the Lord shares three parables and an explanation. All the parables concern aspects of the growth and progress of God's kingdom on earth. The text helps explain why this does not happen smoothly. First, we see that there is an enemy (Matt. 13:25, 39). Jesus explained that this enemy is Satan, and by implication, those who do his bidding in the world. It will be a struggle to grow God's kingdom on earth, and we will run into many "tares," both in and out of the church, who will seek to discourage and destroy the sowing of God's good seed, the gospel. All believers should realize that they are in for a battle. Preaching the gospel and building the kingdom will have many difficulties, obstacles, and troubles because there is an enemy at work. Next, we see that there is a harvest coming. The gospel will go forward side by side with the work of the enemy until the time of God's own choosing. Then the harvest will come, when all the sowing and growing will be finished. Reapers (who are angels) will come, and God's justice will finally be enforced (Matt. 13:41-42). There is nothing the enemy will be able to do about this—the harvest will be enforced by divine power, through the means of God's mighty angels. This is a comforting word for His people. Finally, we see the reckoning that comes. The reapers will first gather up the tares, who are the children of Satan, the ones doing his bidding. These are all the unbelievers who are at work in the world. They are bundled up to burn. Jesus explained that this points to eternal loss and damnation (Matt. 13:42). Then the good wheat will be gathered up and secured into the barn. This refers to the salvation of the righteous, those who have trusted in the Lord (vs. 43). The righteous will manifest the glory of God forever. In His explanation of the parable of the wheat and tares, it is interesting that the Lord Jesus spent more time on the fate of the tares (the wicked) than He did on that of the wheat (the righteous). He was stressing that God's kingdom is a just kingdom. Justice will prevail in the end. We are often tormented by the wickedness of the world. It bothers us to see the wicked prospering and the good work of the Lord and the gospel struggling along with so many obstacles and problems. But this text encourages us to persevere faithfully, for there is a harvest and a just ending to this world. Our faith will be fully vindicated, and evildoers will be judged. God's kingdom will climax in a mighty day of justice. God will sort out the good and the evil.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Parable of the Wheat and Tares (Matt 13:24-30)**

#### *Seed sown by God (24-25)*

- Good seed are sown by God through Jesus (Matt 13:37)
- Good seed stand for the sons of the kingdom (Matt 13:38)
- Good seed are imperishable (1 Peter 1:23)
- Good seed remain in us and keeps us from continuing to sin (1 John 3:9)

#### *Seed sown by Satan (25-26)*

- Tare seed are sown by the devil (Matt 13:39)
- Tare seed sower was hurled from heaven to earth (Rev 12:9)
- Tare seed stand for sons of the evil one (Matt 13:38)
- Tare seed secretly slip in among God's people (Jude 1:4)

#### *Temporary coexistence ((27-28)*

- Temporary coexistence but can be distinguished because they won't serve God (Mal 3:18)
- Temporary coexistence because both the good and bad have been called (Matt 22:10-12)
- Temporary coexistence but will not be prepared when Jesus returns (Matt 25:6-13)
- Temporary coexistence that will not be judged until Jesus returns (1 Cor 4:5)

#### *Eternal separation (29-30)*

- Eternal separation because of not understanding God (Isa 27:10-11)
- Eternal separation because of being arrogant evildoers (Mal 4:1)
- Eternal separation because God commands them to depart from Him into the eternal fire (Matt 25:41)
- Eternal separation because of not remaining in God (John 15:6)

### **Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matt 13:31-32)**

#### *Small seed (31)*

- Small seed that is the smallest planted (Mark 4:30-32)
- Small seeds that will grow (Luke 13:18-19)
- Small seed that God can make into a mighty nation (Isa 60:22)
- Small seeds are sometimes despised (Zech 4:10)

#### *Large tree (32)*

- Large tree planted by God that will be shelter and shade (Ezek 17:23-24)
- Large tree that is abundantly yielding fruit for all to be fed (Dan 4:12)
- Large tree that God ensures is well watered (Ps 104:16-18)
- Large tree that God will make into a mighty one (Isa 60:22)

### **Parable of the Leaven (Matt 13:33)**

#### *Hidden impact (33)*

- Hidden because of being part of the mystery of God (Col 2:2-3)
- Hidden by God until the time was right for revealing it (Eph 3:9)
- Hidden with Jesus in God (Col 3:3)
- Hidden but will be given to the ones who overcome through the Holy Spirit (Rev 2:17)

#### *Resulting impact (33)*

- Impact of shining like the full light of day (Prov 4:18)
- Impact of being guided into all truth (John 16:12-14)
- Impact of God completing His work in us (Phil 1:6)
- Impact of being kept blameless until the coming of Jesus (1 Thess 5:23-24)
- Impact of gaining abounding love and insight (Phil 1:9)