

An Enemy Hath Done This

Matthew 13:24 – 43

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~ In this report from our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God, we will continue examining the Mystery Parables that the Lord Jesus Personally gave His Disciples concerning the future Millennial Kingdom that was to come after His death, burial and resurrection. If you have not read our previous report and, indeed, all nineteen safari reports from the Gospel of Matthew, I highly suggest you go back and do so now. There are seven parables that constitute Jesus spelling out what He is planning to be doing in His Kingdom until He returns to put down all righteousness by dashing them with an iron rod like a potters vessel. Some of the most profound and deepest truths of our life are wrapped up in these parables. They simply MUST be understood properly, correctly and completely, or you will have an utterly useless witness for God. Jesus took examples from the real-life situations that these apostles would understand and made frighteningly real the spiritual aspects thereof....

*~ He spoke of brass and wind and rain,
And fig trees and fair weather,
~ And made it His delight to bring,
Heaven and earth together,
~ He spoke of lilies, vines and corn,
The sparrow and the raven,
~ And words so natural and so wise,
Were on men's hearts, engraven ~*

In our last report, we fully considered the parable of the sower. We saw how that constitutes what our condition will be in the Kingdom of Heaven. We're not talking about the church here today. We're talking about the Kingdom of Heaven. It's future. It isn't here yet in the world. This is a picture of the present hour - but the Kingdom of Heaven is much bigger than the church; encompassing realms we can't even comprehend; indeed, cannot even conceive of. The future coming Millennial Kingdom is also the reign of Heaven over the earth. The program of God is currently being

executed through the church body of believers; and the church is specifically designated as a “called out body.” God is calling out a body of believers to His Name. So, the current state of our affairs is that God is carrying on His present dispensational program....

24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

~ Jesus has already told us what happened to the seed. You may remember that only twenty-five percent of it ever reached maturity. The other seventy-five percent received the SAME seed – but something happened. Candidly, Jesus still seemed to do rather well with His yield, though, because my percentage, I’m sure, is a whole lot less than twenty-five percent. Of all the people this safari has the potential of reaching I would estimate a half of one percent to be an overestimate! I would say my percentage is: not many at all. Honestly, because I always am honest with you dear readers, I feel that if one out of a thousand on this forum on which I teach responds positively to Christ, then I’ll consider my average to be very good. That’s a bad average to be good! It amounts to a very low number of genuine Christians. I can only thank God for what He does give me! So, the state of our Spiritual Safari today, as we examine the present state of the Kingdom of God while Christ is in Heaven serving as our Holy High Priest, I’m just trying to allow the Holy Spirit to give out the Word of God through me by doing the best I know how. I’m sure my way is not the best of all possible ways, but it’s all I have to work with at the moment; and I can honestly say that I am attempting to make my life the example of what happens to us when we totally succumb to God and to His direct will....

25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

~ Jesus, as the Sower, never sleeps; but I do - and you do. So, the Lord Jesus gives us another, deeper facet of our sowing endeavors by telling us what happens while men sleep. We all know the enemy is Satan; and it’s the devil and his minions who are out trying to wreck His fields by sowing these tares in them. The tares are the false doctrine of apostasy; they don’t

refer to atheists in any way. There's so much false teaching and heresy abounding today that I just don't see how anything grows in this present world, quite frankly. ANY spiritual growth – and to see ANYONE be saved today - is absolutely a miracle in and of itself....

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

~ At first growth, it's impossible to tell the difference between wheat and tares. It's not until we have fruit that we know we also have tares. Most of the cults and ism's sound fantastic at first; but when you get along that fourteenth or fifteenth lesson, things start to go sideways. You're going to have to watch for this because it's everywhere. You might want to keep a very close eye on me, my friends! People on this forum on which I teach tell me I ought not to criticize this person or that person so much because they have read what they wrote, and they THINK that person is preaching the Gospel. Once in a while, they may even stumble across it; but the overall message and the OTHER things they say are horribly disconnected and fallacious. In the final analysis, Jesus contradicts their every word. The tares are growing among the wheat, make no mistake about that....

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? From whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

~ The spiritual pictures we are examining in the Mystery Parables of the Gospel of Matthew are absolutely critical to understand and interpret correctly if we ever hope to have a sincere relationship with the Lord Jesus

Christ. Jesus says, “don’t pull up the tares or you’ll kill everything.” Someone asks me if the world is getting better and I say yes – it’s getting better. Someone else asks me if the world is getting worse and I say yes – it’s getting worse. Some people have asked me if I’m trying to ride two horses. Well, if you know me you know I’m not trying to please everyone; in fact, I’m only trying to please ONE Person – the Lord Jesus! Both are still true because the wheat is growing. Unfortunately, the tares still grow with it.

I don’t think there has ever been more Bible teaching than there is today; and I thank God for that because there are many sincere Christians trying to teach the Bible correctly, completely and systematically. I’m attempting to wallpaper this earth with these reports so NO ONE has an excuse to continue in unbelief. Realistically, I’ll probably only wallpaper a house or two in my life; but I still fling the seed out everywhere I can when I can. I see it growing, too, and I know there are some lovely saints that love this Word of God. Some are willing to die defending it and thank God for that support of my work. The wheat is growing but there are a whole lot of tares, too. When I first began this ministry I thought these reports were going to straighten out the world. I thought, very naively, that reading one of these reports would leave no questions in anyone’s minds. I guess most young people starting out in a ministry think that. I honestly thought I could straighten the world out but, as it turns out, the world straightened me out! Well, I’m just thankful to God that He led me to discover the proper interpretations of this passage of Matthew.

My business is to bring you these reports if and until God gives me another directive. I must admit there are still times I find myself pulling at a tare here and there. When I started writing I tried to uproot every single one of the tares and I spent a LOT of wasted time killing my own fields. Some people were trying to pull up the wheat and that created a real problem for me. I don’t waste that much of His time anymore, friends. If you think I’m going to argue this with you – you’re too late - those days are over. Both wheat and tares are growing in the world today; but that field is not the church - it’s the Kingdom of Heaven. Yes, the tares are in the organized church – but the problem is that the organized church is not His church. The True and Living Church body of believers is an invisible body not confined to

any organization. I don't really like the term "...invisible church," though - because many people think that means they are to be invisible at church - and they usually are! However, this makes a vivid illustration of how true believers, irrespective of denomination, are those who have trusted Christ as their Savior and are resting in their love of His Word. Let's not be disturbed that both are growing because Christ will be the One Who puts in the sickle to harvest. Christ is the one that separates the tares from the wheat. Let's be thankful that day has not arrived and that it's not our job! If it were our job I'm afraid we wouldn't know what to do in the first place! Our harvest would be ruined - not by the devil - but all by ourselves....

31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

~ Alright, another kind of seed is introduced here. This one only grows into a condiment, though. It has no nutritional value or vitamins in it as the wheat does. It's not life sustaining; we just put it on hot dogs with onions so they taste better. You sure can't live on mustard and the mustard plant doesn't grow into some huge tree; it's, actually, just a small and scrawny little plant. A liberal preacher once said this was all so deeply profound; and I agree but, apparently, this man had discovered that the mustard seed is NOT the least of all seeds. So, what did the Lord Jesus mean? - I feel comfortable with the interpretation that He meant functionally. Mustard just doesn't serve the human food chain on the same level as wheat does. Of all things that grow from a plant to benefit mankind's culinary desires, mustard may be the least. We can certainly live without it. I don't want to split hairs but I will split seeds with you - because this turns dangerously important in theology - as we shall see. It's desperation that leads to people looking for errors in the Bible. Let's just leave it at this: the mustard seed is the least of all seeds, one way or the other. So, the other problem we have is that mustard doesn't become a tree but this one became a tree!
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32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

~ Here come the birds again; and we know now where they are coming from – because Jesus has specifically told us. What we are talking about here is the outward growth of the organized church. Mustard is a spice that only makes its application in taste. Most churches think they must be relevant and identify themselves with the common contemporary culture of the day. They want to get right down there with the world. I don't know where they get that religious philosophy from. It's not found in the Word of God! See, this little mustard seed grew vigorously. The organized church has become as big as a tree today. They boast of big numbers and huge attendances; but it has no spiritual nutritional value and it will not sustain life; it has no positive influence on the world or society today regarding bringing people to Christ, either - but it does have a whole lot of spice to it. So, the world keeps a refrigerator full of it. Mustard lasts a long, long time, too.

The liberal interpretations of this passage would be perfectly laughable if they weren't so shameful. They generally tell of how the mustard seed - the church - is growing today and how the birds are flocking from all over to roost in it. One has a Baptist bird and a Methodist bird and a Presbyterian bird all flocking together with their different feathers in an ecumenical migration slash mustard feast. He even had dirty birds in his interpretation. Somehow, the mustard tree was the final destination. I kept waiting to hear that the church had developed the manufacturing process of mustard from seed into sauce.

Well, almost all interpretations of this that I have read or heard are simply way off base. See, the way I understand the Bible we aren't called to be mustard; we are to be the salt of the earth. Jesus already told us the birds are the ones that come and take away the good seed! Jesus said the birds were the enemy of the seed sower. Our enemy is Satan. The liberal brand of religious fraud is just all too common, unfortunately. We're talking about Christendom here, friends; and about the way in which evil has taken over the organized church. A flock of birds can completely denude a tree in about a day. Be careful what and where you are identifying yourself with! Are you being honest and truthful with what you believe? Are you being

honest and truthful with the Lord Jesus Christ in prayer and confession of sins? This is all important, friends....

33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

~ I would definitely label this parable the key parable within the Mystery Parables. We said previously that the Gospel of Matthew was the key book in the entire Bible. The thirteenth chapter is the key chapter in Matthew. Verse thirty-three is the key verse of this thirteenth chapter. So, what we are considering in this report is unequivocally the key verse to the entire Bible. This is critical information we are to learn. There are a whole lot of types of seed out there. Jesus only gave us these as examples. The birds came into Christendom and landed in the branches of this tree and gave us organized religion. If you've ever owned a bird as a pet you'll know they are filthy creatures. The whole area around their cage is constantly a terrible mess. So, appropriately, Jesus reinforces His last statements by presenting another parable revealing the condition of Christendom today.

Many theologians erroneously attempt to make an application of leaven to represent both good and bad qualities in different sections of Scripture. They ought to know better because the Bible NOWHERE uses leaven as a principal of good. Leaven is ALWAYS a principal of evil. "Leaven" is found ninety-eight times in the Bible; seventy-five times in the OT - and twenty-three times in the New Testament - and NOT ONE time is it used in a good sense – ALWAYS bad. Dr. Lightfoot, an excelled scholar, stated, "...Rabbinical riders regularly use leaven as a symbol that is not evil." Well, the Gospel is NOT the leaven, friends – the Gospel just happens to be the meal; and how do I know? – Because the meal is made from seed; the seed is the wheat and grain and that is the proper, correct and complete picture that the Word of God presents. You are going to need to fully understand that and sort it out in your mind from here on out or you'll have spiritual malnutrition and great difficulty on this safari.

Likewise, and I do hope none of my very dear readers will take offense to this next statement but, whenever we find a woman in Scripture in a

doctrinal connection it's never good, either. The birds and the leaven are bad in the Bible and a woman is also always a picture and principal of evil. Jesus said, "you suffered that woman Jezebel to teach." When a woman is used as our example it's always the same – bad! When the leaven is mentioned it's always the same - evil. When birds and fowls are presented it's also always the same – a principal of demonic activity and presences. Those things never change in Holy Writ. If you don't like or agree with that statement then all I can tell you is that I am teaching the Bible. You can read it for yourself and make whatever interpretation of it you want to – but if you want to be right then you are going to have to agree with me about this.

This woman in this parable is taking the leaven and hiding it. Why in the world would you hide the Word of God? That interpretation just doesn't make any theological or common sense. We have been told to shout it from the rooftops and declare it throughout the world today. The lepers and blind were told not to tell of the miracles – but they did! I hope I have adequately over-emphasized this point; and it will come up again later. Discussions on this parable almost always lead to comments which are not-so-nice! The leaven is put in meal and in the Word of God so it will taste better – you know – emotional and sensational so more people will try it and the rest can actually choke it down. Others are led by the law, we could argue. God says, "don't do that." Think that one through and see what you come up with.

Today, no cult or ism ignores the Bible – they use the Bible, friends – and in some very weird ways. Satan worshippers are even using the Bible now. Any Satan worshipper using the devil's present publications is a gullible and naïve sophomore, you may be sure. The professional Satan worshipper puts some leaven in three measures of meal and comes up with a truly corrupt creation. When we put leaven in bread it causes it to rise – to "puff up." Leaven makes bread much tastier, too, in the mouth. The cults are very popular because they are thrilling in a way that allows man to do whatever they want to do and live however they want to live with whomever they want to do it all with. Have you ever had unleavened bread? It's just "blah" as far as natural taste is concerned.

I'm from the south and I love those big fat yeast rolls that rise up. You have to be careful not to make a loud noise while it's rising, though, or it will fall and be ruined. You can't let it rise up too far, either, or you'll have a kitchen full of something you don't want a kitchen full of! At the right consistency, properly prepared, however, it's quite tasty! The same is true for the Word of God. People have to corrupt it just enough to be tasty because the Bible is not leavened. God says, "don't do that, please." - Leaven is a principal of evil. I spent a lot of time here because this is the key interpretation to the Word of God; and because all we eat out here on the range in our Spiritual Safari is unleavened bread....

34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this age.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

~ Jesus is telling us something new in our Spiritual Safari; something that we are going to seriously need to nail down in our thinking. What we are seeing was NEVER revealed to any of the Old Testament saints. As we end this report, we need to note that the Bible does not teach the end of the world – it teaches the end of the age. It will have a new Heaven and a new earth – but the world doesn't end. If you have good study tools you can research this more for yourself. We are considering a picture of Christendom - not the church. This depicts EXACTLY the condition we're in today. It isn't good. Interestingly, we have also learned that, even in the millennium, there will be evil. The evil will, ultimately, be taken out, though.

So, we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God by having just witnessed the harshest words in Scripture – and they come directly from the mouth of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Take them however you want to, my beloved. I truly believe I have made an honest and righteous witness for Him in this report. In our next report, we will examine the fifth parable of seven parables. It is the parable of treasure and, trust me, we're going to pick up some real spiritual treasures from it. All three remaining parables have an interpretation that is exquisitely unique and of particular importance. Read this whole chapter again right now - after praying for wisdom, judgment and spiritual discernment. The treasure in the field is the nation Israel. I hope you'll travel there with us on safari. We're going to spend quite a bit of time there ~

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