



**Kingdom Wisdom**

*Keep Calm and Grow On*  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

How to Prepare

Begin preparing by reading the full passage a few times. Then answer the questions for yourself. Then think about how your Small Group might answer them. Try re-wording the questions to fit you and your Small Group. Don't feel tied down to the discussion guide, just be sure to discuss the main point of the text in your conversations.

Resources-

<https://www.gotquestions.org/bearing-fruit.html>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/am-i-real>

<https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/glorious-future>

Sermon Outline:

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

1. The Contrast of Produce and Appearance. Vv. 24-26, 37-39
2. The Contrast of Patience and Impotence. Vv. 27-30
3. The Contrast of Provision and Punishment. Vv. 30, 40-43

**Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

**Tares among 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 among the wheat, and went away.

26 But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares 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?'

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 and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.'""

**The Tares Explained**

36 Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

37 And He said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man,

38 and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one;

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

40 So just as the tares 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 all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness,

42 and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

# Discussion Questions

**Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Here is a question or two to help introduce the topic and jump-start discussion.

**1. What was one key takeaway from the sermon or the text that challenged or encouraged your understanding of the Kingdom of God?**

## **UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION**

These questions should help your Small Group dig deeper into the text and then apply it to your lives today.

### **I. The Contrast of Produce and Appearance. Vv. 24-26, 37-39**

**2. In the parable, what was it that distinguished the wheat from the weeds? What fruit does God look for in our hearts that distinguishes us as genuine believers?**

**3. According to this parable, at least part of the enemy's strategy is for people to appear good without truly loving God. How can we guard ourselves against this kind of superficial faith? What are the dangers of focusing solely on outward morality?**

**4. What role do outward actions play in displaying the genuineness of our faith? Is it possible to know with certainty the genuineness of another's faith?**

### **II. The Contrast of Patience and Impotence. Vv. 27-30**

**5. How does this parable highlight God's patience? Why doesn't God remove all evil from this world, and what is He patiently waiting for?**

*(God is patiently waiting for all who will believe to come to faith. If He were to remove all sinners from the earth at once, then no one would have the opportunity to trust in Christ, and many people who would be born from unbelieving parents would never exist.)*

**6. How does this understanding of God's timing influence our own sense of urgency and patience in sharing the Gospel? What are some practical steps we can take to help "grow the harvest?"**

*(We should be purposeful about evangelism rather than panicky. We should consider how to share the gospel intentionally and regularly, but we must remember that, to use another agricultural metaphor from scripture, though we plant the seed and water it, God causes the growth.)*

**7. How can we have confidence about Christ's return and power in the face of ongoing evil in the world today?**

### **III. The Contrast of Provision and Punishment. Vv. 30, 40-43**

**8. This parable contrasts the punishment for the wicked with the provision for the faithful at the final judgment. How does understanding this future reality impact how we live our lives today and how we view the consequences of rejecting Christ?**

**9. Why do you think people in the world demand justice and yet reject the divine justice of God? Why is God's judgment good especially in light of the gospel?**

**10. What does Christ provide believers within this life and in the age to come? How does this assurance shape our perspective on suffering, persecution, and the future hope we have in Christ?**

*(Jesus provides us with justification through His sacrifice, sanctification through the Holy Spirit and the Word, and glorification when He returns to make all things new and bring about the resurrection of the dead. We hold fast to truth like 2 Cor. 4:17-18, which says: "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.")*

## Commentary (from ESV Study Bible)

**Matt. 13:1–53** Mysteries of the Messianic Kingdom Revealed in Parables. This is the third of Jesus' five major discourses (see Introduction: Key Themes; Literary Features), called the Parabolic Discourse because of its collection of parables.

**Matt. 13:24–35** Further Parables Told to the Crowds. Jesus presents the parables of the wheat and the weeds (vv. 24–30), the mustard seed (vv. 31–32), and the leaven (v. 33).

**Matt. 13:24** The kingdom of heaven may be compared to. Jesus draws on various common experiences to describe the arrival and activity of the kingdom. Cf. "the kingdom of heaven is like" (vv. 31, 33, 44, 45, 47; 20:1; see also 18:23; 22:1; 25:1).

**Matt. 13:25–30** Weeds (plural of Gk. zizanion, only here in the NT) are probably darnel, a weedy rye grass with poisonous black seeds which resembles wheat in its early growth but is easily distinguished from it at maturity. Any attempt to gather the weeds would only endanger the wheat, because the roots of the weeds would be intertwined with those of the wheat. Let both grow together (v. 30). God allows both believers and unbelievers to live in the world until the day of judgment; see note on v. 38.

**Matt. 13:36–53** Explanations and Parables Told to the Disciples. Jesus explains the parable of the wheat and weeds (vv. 36–43) and then gives the disciples the parables of the hidden treasure (v. 44), the costly pearl (vv. 45–46), the dragnet (vv. 47–48), and the householder's treasure (vv. 51–52).

**Matt. 13:38** The parable describes the activity of God's kingdom in the world rather than within the church. The enemies of the kingdom (weeds) will always coexist with the sons of the kingdom (good seed) in this age.

**Matt. 13:39–40** harvest. The judgment that will follow the Son of Man's return at the end of the age (see note on 24:3) to establish his kingdom in its fully realized form.

**Matt. 13:41–42** fiery furnace . . . weeping and gnashing of teeth. Jesus' typical description of eternal judgment in Matthew's Gospel (cf. 8:12; 13:50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30).

**Matt. 13:43** The righteous will shine like the sun, thus reflecting in some lesser way the brightness of the glory of God (cf. Ex. 34:35; Dan. 12:3; Matt. 17:2; 1 Cor. 15:49).