

## Lesson 16 Matthew 13 36-58 Clarity on the work of Satan

### *The disciples want clarity on the "Tares"*

This parable is vital. It tells us of the opposition and the spiritual warfare we face as believers in Jesus. It speaks of the "enemy" and the "sons of the evil one" who continue here in rebellion against the Lord. It informs of the "angels of God" who stand with the Lord in the age-long conflict of history between God and Lucifer. The "angels of the Son of man" are harvesters who will prepare a pure kingdom in the partnership of this aeon ahead. All that offends or hinders will be cast out. This separation will be accompanied by wailing and clenched teeth. The wailers will be sad but determined even to resist heaven. (This judgement further described in Revelation 20 shows "hell" being cast into the "lake of fire". The rebellious of earlier times were held in Hades of the evil ones and are now with the Devil and the false-prophet and the beast tested by the "truth stone" of Christ unceasingly in ages of ages. The great distance of the old universe from God is noted in Revelation 21-"from Him the heaven & earth fled away and there was no known place for them." The lake of fire would seem to describe the present heavens and earth in their fiery dissolution.) The other side of all this is the joy of the saints in the eternal kingdom over which after the millennial aeon and judgement of the rebellious the Father rules.

### *Another parable of the kingdom*

The kingdom is like a treasure or casket hidden in a field which upon discovering the fortunate man sold all and purchased the field. Jesus has just described the nemesis of Satanic opposition-the purposelessness of the power of nations per se and the total poverty of false prophecy which opposes the Son of man and Christianity in the last days. Here he encourages disciples to believe that heaven's kingdom is worth "everything we have".

"All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give  
I will ever love and serve Him, in His presence freely live  
I surrender all I surrender all  
All to Thee my Blessed Master I surrender all."

### *Another parable*

A man found a precious pearl on sale. This pearl for value exceeded anything he had known. He went away and negotiated the sale of all he had. He literally completed a negotiation **as he was retiring** from the market (Greek *απελθων πεπρακε*) and made a once for all offer to trade everything he had with the seller for the pearl. The lesson here is to recognise the unparalleled worth of the kingdom and its salvation

### *Another parable*

A dragnet-such as was familiar around Galilee -when full was dragged to shore. The ship going ashore indicates that the church carries both types of person. So it is in the "federal union" of the age that the angels who are joined by Christ with the church and the kingdom on earth and heaven will gather out the evil from among the just. They will be cast (Greek *aoirist*) into the lake of fire-clearly this is after the judgement of the great white throne. The binding of Satan ensures the perfection of the millennial rule of Christ. The angels have a role joined with the witness of saints to gather the evil from among the good-and indeed as Christ shows an ultimate role to dispose the evil into the "lake of fire" after the judgement of the great white throne.

### *Another parable putting it all together*

Jesus asked His disciples if they had put it all together. They answered "Yes". They certainly had got the part about the end of the present harvest and the end of scandal and opposition. The Lord commended them as good scribes who could calculate how the matters of the kingdom added up. They are then compared in a further parable to a house-holder or the head of a family who brings from his receptacle for valuables things new and old.

Jesus was telling them that there were basics they had received-old testament truth about judgement and about the kingdom of God-but the way in which the separation would proceed was now explained and that the whole matter was related to the church and the gospel and its worldwide proclamation-which was quite a new thought.

**Jesus is back in Nazareth (As Matthew's second book finishes and his third opens** Jesus goes to Nazareth and there teaches in the synagogue to the total surprise of his hearers. His content was profound beyond the training and background they knew was His. They speak of Him as heir of the "tekton" or builder. They knew his four brothers James Joseph Simon and Jude. They knew His mother and sisters. Scripture says they were "tripped up" or "scandalised" by Jesus. They took offence. He was laying claim to have many things which were beyond His carpentering background. As a result of their lack of faith Jesus had no inspiration to do many powerful miracles. In Mark 6 we read He laid hands on a few sick folk and healed them.



### *From Paper to practice*

1. What parable teaches that Satan aims to duplicate or mimic what Jesus does?
2. Is the offer of worldly goods just a business ploy or is there any Satanic factor behind it?
3. Deduce Satan's work from these words:

Deceiver\_\_\_\_\_ Apollyon\_\_\_\_\_ Satan\_\_\_\_\_ Old Serpent\_\_\_\_\_

Murderer\_\_\_\_\_