

**MATTHEW (THE KING, HIS KINGDOM AND ME)  
PROGRAM 23 (#910203)  
WEEK 5 (910344)  
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**SERIES: Matthew (The King, His Kingdom And Me)**

**TITLE: Program 23 – True Sons Of The Kingdom**

**WEDNESDAY**

**OPEN**

Do you ever find yourself in a dilemma, Beloved, a dilemma because there are many people who profess to know Jesus Christ, many people who belong to the church who consider themselves Christians and yet, you look at their lives and their lives are more like the people in the world? And you think, “But they say that they belong to Jesus Christ. But they say that there was a day when they were saved. But it doesn’t show.” What is the answer to that dilemma? Can you know Christ and not live for Him? We’ll talk about it today.

**PART ONE**

I’m on the shores of the Galilee. We’re studying Matthew chapter 13. Remember the crowd was so great that Jesus got into a boat and pushed off just from the shore so that He could teach them. And He began to teach them in parables. Now if you want to understand more about parables, then if you

have a “New Inductive Study Bible,” back in the last portion of the Bible in the appendix there are a number of study helps, study helps on the laws of composition, on similes and metaphors, but also on parables and allegories. A parable was a story that was told in order to make a point. It usually took something that was familiar from life that the audience or the people listening would understand. And then He took that story and He told that story to make a point. Whenever you study a parable you have to see, “Okay, what was the occasion of that parable?” What was it that prompted Jesus to tell that particular story? Well remember now, Matthew is all about the kingdom of heaven. And so, Jesus, in this boat, is out from the shore teaching them parables about the kingdom of heaven. The first parable that He taught them was the parable of the sower of the seed. Mark chapter 4 gives us a little bit more detail into that parable. And I want us to go to Mark chapter 4, in verse 13. “**...He said to them, ‘Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables?’**” (Mark 4:13) Now He’s speaking to His disciples. He’s speaking to those that have understood that He is the Christ, the Messiah, and that are following Him that want to learn from Him. And then He makes this statement, “**The sower sows the word.**” (Mark 4:14) Now you can pick that up from studying Matthew chapter 13. But here He says it in such a concise way that you know when He’s talking about the sower that goes out and sows the seed and some fall on the road and some fall among thorns, and some fall on on rocky places that He’s talking about the Word of God. So this is very important that you understand this. “**The sower sows...,**” not a philosophy, not an idea, not a concept, but he is sowing “**...the [actual] word.**” (Mark 4:14) Whose Word? “**...The word [of God].**” (Mark 4:14) And then He goes on to explain it. So I want to read it this time from Mark chapter 4. It says, “**These are the one who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.**” (Mark 4:15) So these people, they never profess to be

Christians. They never profess. Do you hear the geese in the background? There are geese in this place and they act like sentinels and they don't like it when strange things come by, okay? Then it says in verse 16, **"In a similar way these are... ones ... whom [the] seed was sown....,"** the Word was sown, **"...on ...rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy."** (Mark 4:16) In other words, they say they believe it. They say they're so happy to have it. These are people that make a profession of faith, if we were going to put it in our day. And then it says, **"And they have no firm root in themselves...."** (Mark 4:17) Because it's on the rocks, the root did not go down. **"...But are only temporary...."** (Mark 4:17) So this is what you can understand. You will see some people in church. You will see, meet some people that have made a profession of faith that are so excited, but it's only temporary. It is only temporary. It is not the real thing. Do you understand? And it says, **"And they have no firm root... but...when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away."** (Mark 4:17) They cannot stand the heat. They cannot stand the fire. And Jesus says, ["That if we suffer with Him, we will reign with Him."] (PARAPHRASE, 2 Timothy 2:12 or Romans 8:17) He lets us know right from the beginning that if we're going to be His disciple then [we are to deny ourselves. We are to take up our cross, which means an instrument of death, and we are to follow Him.] (PARAPHRASE, Luke 9:23) We are to keep on following Him. So a true believer; and this is what you have to know, a true believer follows Jesus Christ despite the persecution, despite the affliction. And then in verse 18 it says, **"And others are the ones on whom the seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word."** (Mark 4:18) Now let me ask you a question: Do you hear music in the background? If you hear music in the background this is what happens on the Sea of Galilee. And we do it ourselves, we come to the shore, we board a boat and we go out on the sea and there we worship God. There we sing chorus after chorus. There we

have explained to us all about the Sea of Galilee where Jesus' ministry took place. It's so wonderful. We would love to have you come to Israel with us. We go every year and every year only come if you want the Word of God, because I'm telling you, we sow the Word. It's not a sweet devotional. You open the Book. You study the Book. We explain it and you grow immensely and you'll never forget what you heard, what you saw, what you read, the atmosphere. Well let's go back to the thorns. **"...These are the ones who have heard the word, but the worries of the world...the deceitfulness of riches...."** (Mark 4:18-19) Now I want you to understand it's a deceitfulness of riches. We think riches are going to make us happy, and we are deceived, because happiness does not come from our circumstances. Happiness is something that's inside. It's a blessedness. And then He goes on to say, **"...And the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."** (Mark 4:19) The desire for other things, the deceitfulness of riches, the worries of the world overtake us and they choke the Word. And so if you see people in the church who profess to know Jesus Christ, and yet do not have time for the Word of God, do not want to study the Bible at all, you can know that they are not truly born again. They are not truly born again. They have made a profession, but they do not possess Jesus Christ. Then He says, **"And those ...on whom [the] seed was sown on the good soil; ...they hear the word...,**" they have ears to hear, **"...and [they] accept it...."** They not only just hear it, but **"...they ... accept it and [they] bear fruit...."** (Mark 4:20) Now of all the descriptions here, what are the ones that have the true salvation? The ones that have the true salvation are those that bear fruit. There are some that will tell you otherwise, but it does not hold up with the whole counsel of God. It is not a profession; it is a possession. It is not a profession; it is a possession. And when there is a possession of the Word of God, because it's alive it will bear fruit. So this is how you know. It's the consistency of our life. It's not the immediate reaction to the gospel, but it is what happens over the years.

That's the way you know. And so you see a genuineness in the perseverance and in the endurance, which we we've talked about before. Now Jesus is not through with His parables. In verse 24 it says, **"Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven....'" (Matthew 13:24)** Now remember we're marking parables. And we're marking throughout the gospel of Matthew every single reference to "the kingdom of heaven." We want to know what the kingdom of heaven is all about. And obviously, as Jesus sat in this boat on the shore of the Galilee, He wanted them to understand what the kingdom of heaven is about. So **"...The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while [the] men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also."** (Matthew 13:24b-26) You see wheat and tares, as they grow up, you can't distinguish the wheat from the tares. But when it comes time to bear fruit, then you can tell. It's the fruit that shows you the difference between a wheat and a tare. That's when it becomes evident. It says, **"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?'"** (Matthew 13:27) I thought you sowed good seed. Look at all those tares in your field. **"And he said to [him], 'An enemy has done this!' [And] the slaves said to him, 'Do you want us ... to go [out then ] and gather them up?' But he said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them.'"** (Matthew 13:28-29) You have to be careful because you may pull out the wheat. **"Allow both...,"** this is very important, Precious One. **"Allow both to grow together until the harvest...."** (Matthew 13:30) Allow the wheat; allow the tares to grow together until the time of harvest. He said, **"...I will say to the reapers, 'First gather... the tares....'"** (Matthew 13:30) "First:" you want to mark it. It's a time phrase. **"...First gather...the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into**

**my barn.’ He presented another parable....” (Matthew 13:30-31)** Now I want to stop right there just for a minute and I want to review what we’ve heard because it’s very important. There’s wheat. There’s tares. They’re growing together. They say, [“Let me pull out the tares and He says, ‘No, because if you pull out the tares you’re liable to get some wheat. So let both grow together until the harvest.’”] (PARAPHRASE, 13:28-30) I want you to remember this ’cause He’s not going to explain it right away, [“until the harvest. And then when the harvest comes, first go out and get the tares, take them and burn them up with fire. Gather the wheat and take the wheat and put it into my barn.”] (PARAPHRASE, 13:30) What does He mean? We’ll see in the next segment of the program.

## **PART TWO**

It’s precept upon precept and it’s parable upon parable in Matthew chapter 13. Now we just heard the parable of the wheat and tares, but He has not explained it. But He’s going to, so hang on. But then He presents another parable to them and you want to mark that. **“...The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; and this is smaller than all [the] other seeds....” (Matthew 13:31-32)** I take and put a mustard seed in my hand, and as you look at it, it is so teeny tiny you wonder, how anything could come from that. And surely if a plant came from that it had to be a teeny tiny plant. But it’s not a teeny tiny plant. It says, **“...The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in [the] field; and this is smaller than all [the] other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.” (13:31-32)** Now what is He trying to tell us here? I think He’s trying to tell us that the kingdom of heaven starts out very small. We work in 121 countries about, and we work in 67 languages. And in many countries where we are working there is just comparatively a handful of believers

there. But they're genuine believers. They're suffering for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many times they're suffering because of the persecution of the Muslims, but they're faithful and they're hanging on. And yet, what is going to happen is they are part of a larger kingdom. And it always interests me because when you go back and you look at the Scriptures and you see **"...that the birds of the air come and [they] nest in its branches,"** (Matthew 13:32) what you see is you see that they benefit from the fact of Christianity because Christians are so different than the world. Christians are kind and they're compassionate and, I mean the genuine ones, the ones where they're really receiving the Word, not those that have a harsh religion without any kind of relationship with Jesus Christ. Remember the description of those who truly belong to the kingdom of heaven. Remember that they are gentle. Remember that they are merciful. Remember that when they suffer, they do not retaliate. So it makes them a whole different class of people. You look at the United States of America, you go back to the history of the founding of our country and what do you see? You see that even those that did not believe in Jesus Christ are benefiting. If you haven't heard any other program, by the way, those are geese in the background and we can't get rid of the geese. And they get upset when anything comes around them. All right now, what we see is that the "birds of the air" can come and benefit from that. The United States of America has benefited greatly from the growth of Christianity in our country. Now we come to another parable. **"He spoke [yet] another parable to them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like leaven....'"** (Matthew 13:33) Now what is leaven? Leaven is yeast. **"...Which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour...."** (Matthew 13:33b) She took her yeast. She hid it in three pecks of flour and, oh my goodness! That leaven was all over that flour. He's saying that it spreads. It spreads. And that's where you and I come in, Beloved. We are commissioned to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are commissioned to take the truth, to take the Word and to sow the Word, even if they do not

listen, even if they do not pay attention we're to do that. It says, **"Then He left the crowds and [He] went into the house. And [all the] disciples came to Him and said, 'Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.' And He [says], 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, and the field is the world; as for the good seed, these are ... sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one.'"** (Matthew 13:36-38) There are two categories of people in this world. There's the good seed and the bad seed. There's those that belong to the Son of Man and there's those that belong to the evil one. **"And the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age...."** (Matthew 13:39) He's about to give you a marvelous, marvelous truth. **"...And the reapers are angels. So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age."** He's telling you what's going to happen. **"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, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."** (Matthew 13:39-43) Do you have ears? He says, "I want you to understand that not everyone who says to Him..." It's just like Matthew 7, **"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who's in heaven...."** (Matthew 7:21) That's who's going to enter the kingdom of heaven, Beloved. And so when you meet people and they profess to know Jesus Christ, but there's no evidence in their life, they are seeds of the evil one. They are tares growing up beside the wheat, looking like the wheat. But remember, when he said, ["Shall I pull out the tares?" He says, "No, because you're liable to get some wheat."] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 13:28-29) You think you're getting someone who is not a Christian and truly they are. And this is a warning to you. It's a warning to me. God is the harvester, not



us. God is the harvester. And sometimes you may find a Christian; they don't hold exactly the same doctrine that you do, so you're writing them off as a heretic. You're, you're being mean to them. You're being cruel to them. He says, "You be very careful, because you're liable to be pulling up a wheat instead of a tare." So you wait until the end of the age. At the end of the age God's going to send His reapers. The angels are going to come. They know who the tares are and they know who the wheat is. The tares are going to be gathered and they are going to be burned. But the wheat, the wheat is going into the barn. You know what? You're going to see something very similar to this when we get to Matthew chapter 24 and 25. Because Matthew chapter 24 and 25 talks about the end of the age and when ["Christ comes and He sits on His glorious throne and He separates the sheep from the goats."] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 25:32) You're going to see that there is a separation, that there is a division. But you and I have to remember that we are not God. We do not know the hearts of men. We can look at their deeds and we can warn them. We can warn them and say, "Look, you better check out your salvation," because Paul does that in 2 Corinthians. In the last chapter He says, ["Examine yourselves to see if you are really in the faith or not."] (PARAPHRASE, 2 Corinthians 13:5) Now how do I examine myself? Look at the light. Look at what you produce. Look and see is there fruit in your life. A tare does not have the same fruit that wheat has. And look and see if there's ["thirty fold or sixty fold or a hundredfold"] (PARAPHRASE, Mark 4:20c) in your life. Make sure that there is a coming to maturity and a bearing of fruit. So Beloved, know this, He wants you to understand. Now there's more parables that we're going to look at. But what does He want you to understand today? He wants you to understand that the Word of God sown in the hearts of man always produces fruit, always produces fruit if it's good soil. If it's not good soil there's no fruit. No fruit, no salvation.