

“WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING”
OR
“WHILE WE SLEPT”

MATTHEW 13:24-30

INTRODUCTION

SOME OF MAN’S BASIC QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF EVIL IN THE WORLD AND JUDGING OTHERS ARE COVERED IN THIS PARABLE.

IT IS A PARABLE THAT HAS SOME VERY PRACTICAL ANSWERS AND LESSONS FOR MAN.

1. **ONE OF THE LESSONS THAT THIS PARABLE TEACHES US IS THAT THERE ARE BOTH GOOD AND EVIL PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD AND IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**
2. **THE SECOND LESSON THAT THIS PARABLE TEACHES US IS THAT CHRIST SOWS THE RIGHTEOUS; AND THE DEVIL SOWS THE WICKED.**
3. **THE THIRD LESSON THIS PARABLE TEACHES US IS THAT MEN QUESTION WHY THERE IS EVIL IN THE WORLD AND IN THE KINGDOM (CHURCH). THEY WANT TO KNOW, “DID GOD PLANT THE EVIL AS WELL AS THE GOOD?**
4. **THE FOURTH LESSON THAT THIS PARABLE TEACHES US IS THAT MEN ARE NOT TO JUDGE WHO THE WHEAT AND TARES, THE GOOD AND THE BAD ARE. WHY? BECAUSE IT IS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO DISTINISH BETWEEN THE GOOD AND THE BAD, AND SOME OF THE GOOD MIGHT BE ROOTED UP.**
5. **THE FIFTH LESSON THIS PARABLE TEACHES US IS THAT A DAY OF HARVEST AND JUDGEMENT IS COMING.**

6. **THE SIXTH LESSON THAT THIS PARABLE TEACHES US IS THAT GOD ALONE HAS THE WISDOM TO JUDGE CORRECTLY.**

I. **THE FIRST THING THAT THIS PARABLE DESCRIBES IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**

- A. **THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN MEANS THE SAME THING AS THE KINGDOM OF GOD, ETERNAL LIFE AND SALVATION.**

1. **THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD ARE INTERCHANGED WHEN JESUS SAYS, “A RICH MAN SHALL HARDLY ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN (MATTHEW 19:23) OR “KINGDOM OF GOD” IN (MATTHEW 19:24). ETERNAL LIFE IN (MATTHEW 19:26) AND SALVATION IN (MATTHEW 19:25) BELONG TO THE SAME CONCEPT.**
2. **ETERNITY AND SALVATION, THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, IS THE VERY SUBJECT BEING DISCUSSED IN MATTHEW 19:16-30.**

- B. **THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS REVEALED IN FOUR DIFFERENT STAGES THROUGHOUT HISTORY.**

1. **THERE IS THE SPIRITUAL KINGDOM THAT SAT HAND; IT IS PRESENT RIGHT NOW (MATTHEW 4:17; 12:18)**
 - (a). **THE PRESENT KINGDOM REFERS TO GOD’D RULE AND REIGN AND AUTHORITY IN THE LIFE OF BELIEVERS. (COL. 1:13 “WHO HAS DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS, AND HAS TRANSLATED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF HIS DEAR SON.)**

- (b). THE PRESENT KINGDOM IS OFFERED TO THE WORLD AND TO MEN IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST.**
 - (c). THE PRESENT KINGDOM MUST BE RECEIVED AS A LITTLE CHILD. (MARK 10:14-15)**
 - (d). THE PRESENT KINGDOM IS EXPERIENCED ONLY BY THE NEW BIRTH. (JOHN 3:30)**
 - (e). THE PRESENT KINGDOM IS ENTERED NOW AND MUST BE RECEIVED NOW. (MARK 10:15)**
 - (f). THE PRESENT KINGDOM IS A SPIRITUAL, LIFE-CHANGING BLESSING. (ROMANS 14:17)**
 - (g). THE PRESENT KINGDOM IS TO BE THE FIRST THING SOUGHT BY BELIEVERS. (MATTHEW 6:33)**
- 2. THERE IS THE PROFESSING KINGDOM THAT IS ALSO IN THIS PRESENT AGE.**
- (a). IT REFERS TO MODERN-DAY CHRISTIANITY IN EVERY GENERATION.**
 - (b). IT PICTURES WHAT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN OR PROFESSING CHRISTIANITY IS LIKE AND WHAT PROFESSING CHRISTIANITY WILL BE LIKE BETWEEN CHRIST'S FIRST COMING AND HIS RETURN.**
 - (c). THIS IMPERFECT STATE IS WHAT IS CALLED "THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (MATTHEW 13:1-52, ESP. 11)**

3. THEN THERE IS THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM THAT IS FUTURE.

(a). IT IS THE ACTUAL RULE OF CHRIST OR THE GOVERNMENT OF CHRIST THAT IS TO COME TO THIS EARTH FOR A THOUSAND YEARS.

(b). THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM IS THE KINGDOM PREDICTED BY DANIEL IN (DANIEL 7:18, 22, 27).

(c). THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM IS THE KINGDOM PROMISED BY DAVID IN (II SAMUEL 7:12, 16) (PSALM 89:3-4) AND (ZECH. 12:8).

(d). THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM IS THE KINGDOM PICTURED BY JOHN IN (REVELATION 20:4-6).

4. THEN THERE IS THE PERFECT KINGDOM OF THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH THAT IS FUTURE.

(a). THE ETERNAL KINGDOM IS THE RULE AND THE REIGN OF GOD IN A PERFECT UNIVERSE FOR ALL ETERNITY. (JOHN 14:1-3)

(b). THE ETERNAL KINGDOM IS THE PERFECT STATE OF BEING FOR THE BELIEVER IN THE FUTURE. (I CORINTHIANS 15:50)

(c). THE ETERNAL KINGDOM IS AN ACTUAL PLACE INTO WHICH BELIEVERS ARE TO ENTER SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE. (MATTHEW 8:11)

(d). THE ETERNAL KINGDOM IS A GIFT OF GOD THAT WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FUTURE. (LUKE 12:32).

II. THE SECOND THING THIS PARABLE DESCRIBES IS JESUS CHRIST'S MISSION:

A. "A MAN WHICH SOWS GOOD SEED."

1. THE MAN IS CHRIST AND THE GOOD SEED ARE THE RIGHTEOUS, AND THE FIELD IS THE WORLD.

B. NOTE TWO THINGS ABOUT THE MAN, CHRIST:

1. NOTE FIRST WHAT THE MAN, CHRIST, DOES.

(a). HIS WORK IS TO SOW RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.

(b). FOR THE SON OF MAN IS COME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST." LUKE 19:10

2. NOTICE SECONDLY THAT THE MAN, CHRIST, OWNS THE WORLD.

(a). THE WORLD IS "HIS FIELD."

(b). "ALL THINGS WERE MADE BY HIM; AND WITHOUT HIM WAS NOT ANY THING MADE THAT WAS MADE." JOHN 1:3.

III. THE THIRD THING THAT THIS PARABLE DESCRIBES IS THAT SATAN, WHO IS AN ENEMY, SOWS TARES.

A. THE ENEMY IS THE DEVIL.

1. DIABOLOS;
2. THE LIAR;

3. **THE DECIEVER;**
4. **THE ONE WHO STRUGGLES AGAINST TRUTH;**

B. THE TARES ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL OR THE WICKED ONE.

C. NOTE WHAT THE DEVIL OR THE ENEMY DOES:

1. **HIS WORK IS TO SOW WICKED OR LAWLESS PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.**
2. **HE DOES IT SECRETLY SO THAT THEY WILL BE UNNOTICED.**
3. **HE CAME WHILE MEN SLEPT.**
 - (a). **THEY WERE UNCONSCIOUS AND UNAWARE;**
 - (b). **THEY WERE TOO BUSY;**
 - (c). **THEY WERE TOO OCCUPIED**
 - (d). **THEY WERE TOO ENTICED WITH PLEASURE AND THE AFFAIRS OF THIS WORLD.**
4. **THE DEVIL OPERATED UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS AND DECEPTION.**

D. NOTE THAT THE ENEMY SOWS IN THE SAME FIELD AS THE LORD.

1. **THE BAD ARE SOWN AMONG THE GOOD;**
2. **THE DEVIL'S METHOD IS COUNTERFIT AND IMITATION.**

3. **SOME WITHIN THE WORLD AND SOME WITHIN THE CHURCH HAVE NOT BEEN SOWN BY THE LORD.**
4. **THEY MAY BE IN THE WORLD AND IN THE CHURCH;**
5. **THEY MAY EVEN LOOK LIKE THEY BELONG TO HIM, BUT THEY DON'T.**

E. NOTE THREE THINGS HERE ABOUT THE DEVIL, THE ENEMY:

1. **THE DEVIL IS A SWORN ENEMY TO CHRIST, TO THE WORLD, AND TO ALL THAT IS GOOD.**
 - (a). **HE IS A SWORN ENEMY TO MAN, TO HIS PEACE, AND TO THE FULFILLMENT OF HIS PURPOSE AND LIFE ON EARTH.**
2. **ONE REASON SO MANY TARES ARE SOWN IS BECAUSE SO MANY RIGHTEOUS ARE SLEEPING WHEN THEY SHOULD BE WATCHING OVER THE FIELD.**
 - (a). **SATAN NEVER SLEEPS; HE IS EVER AWAKE FOR EVERY OPPORTUNITY.**
 - (b). **“BUT WHILE MEN SLEPT, HIS ENEMY CAME AND SOWED TARES AMONG THE WHEAT.” (25)**
3. **NOTE THE WORDS, “HE WENT HIS WAY”.(25)**
 - (a). **SATAN DOES NOT WANT TO BE KNOWN AS THE SOWER OF WICKED MEN.**
 - (b). **IN FACT, HE WANTS THE WICKED TO DISCLAIM HIM, AND NEVER CONFESS THAT HE IS THEIRS “FATHER.”**

(c). JOHN 8:44 “YE ARE OF YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL, AND THE LUST OF YOUR FATHER YE WILL DO.”

IV. **THE FOURTH THING THAT THIS PARABLE DESCRIBES IS THAT A DAY FOR BEARING FRUIT ALWAYS COMES.**

A. **FRUIT BEARING DAY COMES FOR ALL PROFESSING CCHRISTIANS.**

(1). **THE TARES THEMSELVES WERE CALLED “DARNEL,” WHICH WAS SOME FORM OF PLANT OR WILD CORN THAT WAS SLIGHTLY POISONOUS AND NARCOTIC.**

(2). **WHEN IT WAS EATEN, IT WOULD CAUSE DIZZINESS AND NAUSEA.**

(3). **IT WAS CALLED THE BASTARD WHEAT**

(4). **ITS ROOTS BECAME INTERTWINED WITH THE ROOT OF THE WHEAT;**

(5). **AND IF IT WERE ROOTED UP, IT WOULD DESTROY THE WHEAT PLANT BEFORE THE FRUIT BECAME MATURE.**

(6). **THE METHOD USED TO GET RID OF IT WAS TO LET IT GROW AND THEN TO HARVEST IT WITH THE WHEAT.**

(7). **IT WAS THEN SEPARATED FROM THE WHEAT, BUNDLED TOGETHER, AND CAST INTO A FLAMING FIRE.**

(8). **NOTE THAT THE TARES (THE UNREGENERATED) LOOK JUST LIKE WHEAT WHEN SOWN AND DURING THE GROWING STAGE.**

(a). ALL MEN APPEAR THE SAME IN RELIGIOUS PRACTICES, BUT IT IS DURING THE FRUIT BEARING STAGE THAT THE DIFFERENCES APPEARS;

(b). UNREGENERATED MEN CAN IMITATE TRUE BELIEVERS ONLY FOR SO LONG; EVENTUALLY THEIR TRUE NATURE BEGINS TO SHOW.

B. NOTE THAT TARES AMONG THE WHEAT ARE HURTFUL TO THE WHEAT.

(1). TARES ARE AN EVIL REFLECTION UPON THE WHEAT;

(a). THEY MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE WORLD TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL;

(b). THEY ARE THE PRIMARY CAUSE FOR THE CHARGE OF HYPOCRISY LEVELED AGAINST THE CHURCH.

(2). TARES STYMIE THE GROWTH OF THE WHEAT;

(a). THEIR BEHAVIOR, THEIR CONVERSATION, AND THEIR THOUGHTS ARE CENTERED IN THE WORLD AND NOT ON CHRIST.

(b). THEREFORE, THE RIGHTEOUS ARE NOT EDIFIED WHEN TARES ARE CLINGING TO THEM.

(3). TARES ARE A THREAT TO THE WHEAT;

(a). TARES DRAW NEEDED NOURISHMENT FROM THE WHEAT.

(b). THE PROFESSING TARES CAN TEMPT AND LEAD THE RIGHTEOUS AWAY FROM THE LORD AND HIS NOURISHMENT.

(c). THE TARES CAN TEMPT AND LEAD THE RIGHTEOUS INTO THE WORLD AND ITS DELIGHTS.

(4). TARES CAN CAUSE THE DEATH OF THE WHEAT;

(a). THE PROFESSING TARES CAN PERSECUTE AND EVEN KILL WHEAT.

V. SO, JUST LIKE THE DAY OF BEARING FRUIT COMES, THE DAY OF QUESTIONING COMES AS WELL.

A. THERE IS THE QUESTION CONCERNING TARES OR EVIL IN THE WORLD.

(1). WHERE DOES EVIL COME FROM? (27)

(2). IF THERE IS A GOD, WHY IS EVIL ALLOWED TO CONTINUE?

B. BUT NOTICE THAT, AT THIS STAGE OF THE DISCIPLES' GROWTH, JESUS SIMPLY STATES THAT EVIL PERSONS ARE PRESENT.

(1). HE SAYS THAT AN ENEMY TO GOD PLANTS THEM.

(2). HIS STATEMENT WITHOUT EXPLANATION WAS GOOD ENOUGH, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT TIME.

C. HOWEVER, IN ANSWERING THE QUESTION OF EVIL, A PERSON NEEDS TO CONSIDER THE FULL

**REVELATION OF GOD THAT IS GIVEN IN
SCRIPTURE.**

- (1). SCRIPTURE REVEALS THAT JESUS CHRIST,
THE SON OF MAN, IS THE ORIGINAL SOWER
OR CREATOR.**
- (2). HE IS THE MASTER OR OWNER OF THE
FIELD OR WORLD.**
- (3). HE CREATED MAN TO BE PERFECT, THAT IS,
IN HIS OWN IMAGE.**
- (4). HE PLANTED WITHIN MAN A SPIRIT TO DO
RIGHT.**
- (5). BUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER CREATION, THE
OTHER SOWER, THE DEVIL, WENT RIGHT TO
WORK.**
- (6). HE BEGAN WITH ADAM AND EVE.**
- (7). AND EVERY SINCE, HE HAS SOWN NOTHING
BUT TARES, THE UNRIGHTEOUS AMONG
GOD'S GOOD SEED.**

CONCLUSION

**AND, THE WORSE PART OF ALL OF THIS IS THAT THEY DID
IT WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING.**

**A. WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, THE ENEMY CAME IN
AND PLANTED TARES OF HOMOSEXUALITY.**

- (1). AND WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, OUR
DAUGHTERS WERE WALKING DOWN THE
STREET HOLDING ANOTHER GIRL'S HANDS;**
- (2). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, OUR SONS ARE
KISSING OTHER MEN;**
- (3). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, ANOTHER**

WOMEN HAS MOVED INTO BED WITH OUR WIVES;

(4). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, ANOTHER MAN IS ON THE DOWN-LOW WITH YOUR HUSBANDS;

(5). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, WOMEN ARE MARRYING WOMEN AND OUR CHILDREN NOW HAVE TWO MAMAS;

(6). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, MEN ARE MARRING MEN AND OUR CHILDREN NOW HAVE TWO DADDYS;

B. WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, THE ENEMY CAME IN AND PLANTED TARES OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL IN OUR COMMUNITY.

(1). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, OUR CHILDREN ARE CRACKED UP ON CRACK;

(2). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, OUR MOTHERS ARE MESSED UP ON METH;

(3). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, OUR FATHERS ARE SNIFFING COKE;

(4). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WERE OVERDOSING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

C. WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, THE ENEMY CAME IN AND PLANTED TARES OF SEXUAL PROMISESECURITY;

(1). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, OUR DAUGHTERS ARE HAVING BABIES WHILE THEY ARE STILL BABIES;

(2). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, OUR SONS ARE MAKING BABIE, BUT THEY ARE NOT

**RAISING THE BABIES THAT THEY ARE
MAKING.**

**D. WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, THE ENEMY CAME IN
AND PLANTED TARES OF VIOLENCE;**

**(1). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, THERE ARE
DRIVE-BY SHOOTINGS IN OUR COMMUNITY;**

**(2). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, THERE ARE
BREAK-INS ON OUR SENIORS;**

**E. WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, THE ENEMY CAME IN
AND PLANTED TARES OF ATTACK ON THE YOUNG
BLACK MALE;**

**(1). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, OUR YOUNG
MEN ARE GOING TO JAIL AT A HIGHER
RATE THAN ARE GOING TO COLLEGE;**

**(2). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, OUR YOUNG
MEN ARE DROPPING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL
AT AN ALARMING RATE;**

**(3). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, OUR YOUNG
MEN AND DYING ON THE STREETS OF OUR
CITY;**

**(4). WHILE WERE SLEEPING, OUR YOUNG FOLK
ARE BEING ARRESTED FOR DRIVING WHILE
BLACK;**

**F. WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, THE ENEMY CAME IN
AND PLANTED TARES OF CULTISM.**

**(1). WHILE WE WERE SLEPPING, THE “NAME IT”
AND “CLAIM IT” PREACHERS ARE
DESTROYING OUR CHURCHES;**

**(2). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, THE MOONIES
HAVE WOODED AWAY SOME OF OUR BEST**

PREACHERS;

(3). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, THE MORMONS HAVE COME INTO OUR COMMUNITIES AND SOLD OUR PEOPLE ON ANOTHER BOOK;

(4). WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING, A GROUP HAS COME INTO OUR CHURCHES AND CONVINCED SOME THAT THEY DON'T HAVE THE FULL GOSPEL.

G. BUT I STOPPED BY TO TELL YOU TONIGHT, THAT IT IS TIME FOR US TO WAKE-UP.

(1). WE NEED TO WAKE-UP AND BECOME ALERT AND AWARE OF OUR SPIRITUAL AND MORAL BEHAVIOR.

(2). WE CAN'T AFFORD TO SLEEP WHEN THE ENEMY IS AT OUR DOOR AND ATTACKING US ON EVERY SIDE.

(a). THE HIGH DROPOUT RATE AMONG OUR YOUTH IS MIND BOGGLING;

(b). EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE DECLINING;

(c). POOR HEALTH AMONG ADOLESCENTS IS REACHING CRISIS PROPORTIONS;

(d). HIV AND AIDS IS A THREAT TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE BLACK RACE;

(e). EXTREME VIOLENCE IS CHARACTERIZED BY BLACK ON BLACK CRIME;

(f). BATTERED WOMEN, CHILD ABUSE, AND SENSELESS KILLINGS ARE ON THE RISE;

(g). THERE IS A RESURGENCE OF BLATANT RACISM;

(h). OUR FAMILY STURCTURE IS BEING DESTROYED;

(i). OUR YOUNG PEOPLE’S MINDS ARE BEING FILLED WITH DEGRADING MUSIC;

(3). ALL THIS HAPPENED WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING.

H. IT IS TIME FOR US TO WAKE-UP AND REMEMBER THAT “FROM YONDER TO HERE, THE LORD HAS HELPED UP.”

(1). IT WAS GOD WHO HELPED US WHEN WE COULD NOT SEE OUR WAY;

(2). WHEN WE WERE IN OUR SINS, AND ON OUR WAY TO A DEVIL’S HELL, IT WAS GOD WHO RESCUED US.

(3). “FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS OLNLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVED IN HIM, WILL NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.”

(4). AND JESUS LOVED US SO MUCH, THAT HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR YOU AND FOR ME;

(5). IT WAS EARLY ONE FRIDAY MORNING, THEY LED HIM UP CALVARY’S HILL, THEY STRETCHED HIS WIDE AND THEY HUNG HIM HIGH; HE DIED FOR YOU AND FOR ME;

(6). THEY BURIED HIM IN A BORROWED TOMB; HE STAYED THERE THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS;

(7). BUT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, HE GOT UP WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HANDS.....

I. YOU MAY BE ASKING ME, REVEREND, IF JESUS HAS ALL OF THAT POWER, WHY EVIL IS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE IN THE WORLD? AND WHY HYPOCRITES ARE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE IN THE CHURCH INSTEAD OF BEING DISCIPLINED AND EXPELLED?

- (1). BECAUSE IF WE JUDGE, WE MIGHT TEAR OUT SOME WHEAT AMONG THE TARES;**
- (2). THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT IS COMING, BUT IT IS NOT TO BE EXECUTED BY MAN BUT BY CHRIST AT HIS RETURN.**
- (3). AND, ONE OF THESE OLD DAYS, JESUS IS COMING BACK TO SEPARATE THE WHEAT FROM THE TARES;**
- (4). BUT IN THE MEAN TIME, WE NEED TO WAKE- UP AND WORK TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE;**
- (5). YOU MUST STUDY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE;**
- (6). YOU MUST THINK TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE;**
- (7). YOU MUST DREAM TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE;**
- (8). YOU MUST PLAN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE;**
- (9). YOU MUST LOVE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

YES...YES...YES...YES....YES....OH.....OH...OH...YES.

