

November 28, 2021

Matthew 13 – 14

More Parables and Miracles

Have you ever wondered why some people in church are completely committed and supportive, but others just seem to be along for the ride? Why is church attendance so much lower on Sunday night than on Sunday morning? Why is it even lower on Wednesday night and revival services? We certainly can understand why those who have difficulty driving at night and those who must work don't come, but what about the rest?

In last week's lesson Jesus told us some people are uninterested, too shallow, or too busy to truly follow Him. Do you think that fact might have some impact on modern-day church attendance? Do you think everybody in church is truly saved?

Last week we began a study of Jesus' Sermon by the Seaside, which included many parables. This week you will study another parable, learn more about why Jesus taught in parables, and see more of His amazing miracles.

Matt. 13:24 To what did Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven?

Matt. 13:25 What happened while the man slept?

Tares were common weeds in ancient Israel. In their early stages of growth they were indistinguishable from wheat. The wheat and tares both began to grow. The servants told the man about it.

Matt. 13:28 What did the servants ask?

Matt. 13:29 Why did the man reject their plan?

Matt. 13:30 What did he say they would do?

What did he say they would do with the tares?

What about the wheat?

Matt. 13:34 "All these things spake Jesus unto the _____ in _____ ;
and without a _____ spake He _____ unto them."

Matt. 13:35 Why did Jesus do this?

Matt. 13:36 What did Jesus' disciples ask?

Jesus explained who the characters in the parable represented.

	<u>Character:</u>	<u>Meaning:</u>
Matt. 13:37	Man (sowed good seed)	

Matt. 13:38	Field	
	Good seed (wheat)	
	Tares	
Matt. 13:39	Enemy	
	Harvest	
	Reapers	

Matt. 13:40 What will happen to the tares (the unsaved who masquerade as believers) at the end of the world?

Matt. 13:41 Jesus will send out His angels. Who will they gather?

Matt. 13:42 What will He do with them?

Matt. 13:43 What will happen to the righteous?

Jesus told His disciples several more parables, and then made His last visit to His hometown of Nazareth. The people were offended and rejected Him, so He didn't do many miracles there.

Chapter 14 begins with the execution of John the Baptist. Jesus went to a desert place, where many people followed. He healed many sick people, but the disciples realized the people were hungry. All they had among them were five loaves and two fish.

Matt. 14:19 What did Jesus do?

Matt. 14:20 How do you know they all had enough to eat?

Matt. 14:21 How many did He feed?

Jesus sent His disciples across the sea by boat. A terrible storm arose and they were tossed about by the waves.

Matt. 14:25 How did Jesus go to them?

Matt. 14:26 How did they react to this sight?

Jesus calmed their fears and calmed the storm.

Matt. 14:33 What did they realize about Jesus?

Concluding Thoughts: Jesus' disciples saw His amazing miracles and they believed He truly was the Son of God. The people in His hometown, however, were offended by His teaching and rejected Him. Why did the two groups react so differently?

Jesus said there are true believers and religious counterfeits in the church. That is a fact of life – **everybody in church is not truly saved.** The parable of the wheat and tares indicates it is hard

to tell the difference between genuine believers and fakes, but at the end of the world Jesus will easily separate the two. Christians will go to heaven, but the fakes and counterfeits will go to hell.

What about you? Are you wheat – a true believer – or are you a tare – a fake? You are the only person who knows the answer to that question. If you don't believe you have ever truly received Christ as your Savior, please read the verses printed on the back of this book, confess your sins, and turn to Jesus Christ for salvation.

Project: Our study of Matthew continues next week. Be sure to pick up a new *Sunday School Member Quarterly* and begin the Daily Bible Reading Guide on Monday.