
Study Questions for Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43 (NKJV)

Note: The **Parable of the Wheat and the Tares (Weeds)** in **Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43 (NKJV)** is unique in that **Mark and Luke do not record this specific parable.**

1. Why does Jesus describe the kingdom of heaven as a field with both wheat and tares?

Reference: Matthew 13:24–25

Jesus acknowledges that good and evil coexist in the present age. The field represents the world (Matthew 13:38), and the presence of tares (weeds) does not mean the farmer failed—it reflects the activity of an enemy (Matthew 13:25, 39). The kingdom grows in contested space, not in isolation.

Everyday application: We should not be surprised when good and evil grow side by side in the world—or even within communities.

2. Why does the master tell the servants not to pull up the tares immediately?

Reference: Matthew 13:28–29

The master understands that premature judgment could damage the wheat. In early stages, wheat and weeds can look similar, and pulling one may uproot the other. This reflects divine patience and restraint. God sees more clearly than we do and guards against rash action.

Everyday application: Acting too quickly to judge or remove what seems wrong can unintentionally harm what God is growing.

3. What does the “harvest” represent?

Reference: Matthew 13:30, 39; Joel 3:13

Jesus explains that the harvest represents “the end of the age” (Matthew 13:39). Harvest imagery in Scripture often points to final accountability and divine justice (Joel 3:13). The delay between planting and harvest is not indifference but timing.

Everyday application: Justice may not be immediate, but God’s timing is deliberate and purposeful.

4. Why is it significant that the Son of Man sends out His angels for the separation?

Reference: Matthew 13:41–42; Matthew 16:27

Jesus identifies Himself as the authoritative judge who oversees final separation. The role of angels emphasizes that judgment belongs to God’s domain, not human initiative (Matthew 16:27). This removes the burden of ultimate judgment from us.

Everyday application: We are responsible for faithfulness, not final verdicts.

5. What does this parable teach about patience?

Reference: Matthew 13:30; James 5:7–8

The instruction to “let both grow together” reveals divine patience. The farmer is confident enough in the outcome to wait. Scripture often connects waiting with trust in God’s purposes (James 5:7–8).

Everyday application: Growth—whether spiritual or relational—takes time, and impatience can disrupt what God intends to mature.

6. What warning does Jesus give about “offenses” and those who practice lawlessness?

Reference: Matthew 13:41; Psalm 37:1–2

Jesus acknowledges that wrongdoing exists and influences others. Yet Psalm 37 reminds believers not to fret over evildoers because their success is temporary. The parable assures that injustice will not have the final word.

Everyday application: We can remain steady even when wrongdoing seems to prosper.

7. What does it mean that “the righteous will shine forth as the sun”?

Reference: Matthew 13:43; Daniel 12:3

This imagery echoes Daniel’s promise that those who are faithful will reflect God’s glory (Daniel 12:3). The shining is not self-generated but reflects participation in God’s kingdom. Present obscurity does not determine ultimate destiny.

Everyday application: Faithfulness now may seem unnoticed, but God’s future reward reframes present endurance.

8. Why does Jesus conclude with “He who has ears to hear, let him hear”?

Reference: Matthew 13:43; Proverbs 2:2–5

This phrase calls for active listening and reflection. Hearing in Scripture often implies response, not mere awareness (Proverbs 2:2–5). Jesus invites His listeners to examine where they stand within the field—wheat or tare—and how they respond to the King.

Everyday application: Understanding spiritual truth requires openness and willingness to respond, not just curiosity.