

# The parable of the tares



Matthew 13:24-30

Jesus Christ taught in another parable: "A farmer sows wheat on his acre. Then his enemy comes and sows tares (an injurious corn-weed). Both grow. The roots of the tares tangle with the roots of the wheat. The farmer instructs his servants not to pull out the tares for they might otherwise pull out the wheat as well. At harvest time the tares are gathered and burnt, and the wheat is harvested."

This parable is to teach that only good comes from God. However, much evil has been sown by God's enemy, the Devil, which also flourishes. God himself will judge between good and evil.

The children are encouraged to allow the good to grow in their hearts.  
As guardian and admonisher the Holy Spirit helps to differentiate between good and evil.

**T**

hat evening Manuel and his father go and look at the shoots. Only one of the little plants has recovered. Perhaps it can still be saved. Manuel asks: "Shall I pull out the withered ones?" His father replies: "No, leave them, they may recover. The roots are most probably also entangled and if you pull them out, you may pull out the one you want to keep as well. Let's leave them all alone."

After supper the matter of the shoots comes up again. Mother mentions that these reminded her of the parable of the sower. Manuel tells the story while his father listens.

1

When Manuel comes to the end of his story, his father praises him: "You have understood very well and remembered everything. Don't you find parables very interesting? I know another one which refers to the kingdom of God and fits in nicely. Would you like to hear it?" Manuel nods vigorously and his father relates:

"A farmer sows good wheat in his field. One night, while all are fast asleep, his enemy comes. Secretly he sows weed in

the same field. As stealthily and secretly as he has come, he leaves again. After a while the weed comes up. The servants notice this to their dismay. They rush to their master and say: 'Many tares are growing on the field. But you sowed wheat there, how is that possible?' The farmer replies: 'Someone must have done that to do me harm.' The labourers ask: 'Shall we pull out the tares?'

"No," the farmer replies, 'otherwise you might inadvertently pull out the wheat as well. Let both grow. When harvest time comes, I will tell the reapers to gather both. The tares we will burn and the wheat we will store in the barns.'

2

Manuel remembers what Mother has told him about parables. He asks: "Do you know what the Lord Jesus meant with that?" "I think so. When Christ returns, God will judge his own as to good and evil. The Lord Jesus will come and take all those who are ready and prepared with him. We also want to belong to these. That is why we allow the good to grow in us and so prepare ourselves for that day."

"The Lord Jesus is the sower. He only desires that which is good. He wishes it to grow and flourish. But he also allows that which is not good, that which the Devil has sown, to grow. In the parable the enemy comes at night. With this is meant that he uses the time when we are sleeping. That is why we must remain watchful. The Holy Spirit helps us to re-

cognize and avoid evil and to care for the good. If we honestly try, God will be merciful to us and take us to where he is. That will be wonderful.”

3

*The Lord Jesus taught in a parable: “A farmer sows good seed on his field. At night his enemy comes and sows tares among the wheat. Both grow. The farmer allows the wheat to ripen. Then his servants pull out all the tares and burn them. But the wheat is gathered and brought into the barns.”*

*God sows only good seed.  
He will harvest the fruits of what he has sown.*



- 1 Using the pictures of the previous lesson we repeat the parable.
- 2 We discuss the picture. The children visualize themselves in the farmer's situation. They speculate as to what he might be thinking about the wheat and the tares.
- 3 We consider what characteristics and talents should grow in us. (love, forgiveness, understanding ...)  
What do we want to avoid?