(Matthew 13:24-30)
24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."

INTRODUCTION

- Jesus used parables so that we can understand the Kingdom of God.
  - The parable tells of how the sower unexpectedly found tares among the wheat when he had only sown good seed.
  - The Bible says, "But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared"(Matthew 13:26)- suggesting a surprise – the unexpected.

- The message is: “How to Handle the Unexpected”
  - It is like: You have been obedient and have done what is right in the eyes of the Lord - you have sown good seed and then, you are suddenly confronted with a disastrous situation.
  - Something horrible, unbelieving and disappointing comes along in the midst of the blessings or the favor you are experiencing.

  "So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares? (Matthew 13:27)

  The owner said to them, 'An enemy has done this.'
  The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' (Matthew 13:28)

- There is an enemy. He will try to defeat you.
- The ground is capable of producing wheat and tares.
UNDERSTANDING KINGDOM PRINCIPLES

Jesus’ teaching illustrates the kingdom principle of “sowing and reaping”.
What you sow, you will reap - good or bad.

(Galatians 6:7)
"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

God will not go against His principles

- **Fasting and praying will not turn your tares to wheat.**
  - Fasting and praying gives you the grace to overcome your tares.
  - The miracle is that you will survive by God's grace, love and mercy.
  - What you plant, you will receive.
  - The sower in the parable got what he planted and was surprised when he saw the tares.

- **Blessings come by seed**
  - When you pray - God gives you seed.
    - That is why when you pray the answer does not always look like what you ask.
  - God's answer is by seed
    - If you pray for a tree, He gives you a seed
    - Not all seeds look alike or are alike.
    - Don't despise small seeds.
  - No seed looks like what it produces
    - You need to have faith in your seed.
    - It takes faith to plant.
    - It takes faith to believe the seeds have the potential and power to produce.

  Paul says, (2 Corinthians 5:7)
  "For we walk by faith and not by sight"

- **A harvest or blessing does not come without planting**
  - If you do not like what you are reaping, change your seed.
  - You will reap what you sow.
  - You can make things happen by keeping Kingdom principles.
    - To tithe is a Kingdom principle – for blessings "prove me if I will not open the windows of heaven"
    - To give is a Kingdom principle to receive - "give and it shall be given to you"
    - If you are willing and obedient, you will eat of the good of the land

  Obedience will let you eat all the good of the land

Deuteronomy 28:2-14
2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God: 3 "Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. 4 “Blessed shall be the
fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. 5 “Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. 6 “Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. 7 “The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. 8 “The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. 9 “The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways. 10 Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you. 11 And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. 12 The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. 13 And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them. 14 So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

THE SOWER'S QUESTION

"So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' (Matthew 13: 27)

The answer:
"an enemy has done this" (Matthew13: 28)

When?
"but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way." (Matthew 13:28)

- **Those who are doing the work and living the life of the Kingdom of God will have enemies**
  - They are discovered at the time of harvest.
  - The enemy will not sow in fields that belong to him.
  - He sows in the fields of wheat - those who are in the Kingdom of God's business.
  (John 10:10)
  Jesus says, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

- **You can count on the enemy to show up when you live for God.**
  - He will sow into your field of wheat, tares to frustrate, provoke, confuse, hinder, distract, and discourage you.

THE SOWER'S REQUEST

The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' (Matthew 13:28)

The answer - "No"
29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."
(Matthew 13: 29-30)

Why does God allow the tares to remain?

- **He can show Himself strong**
  - Example: Moses and Pharoah

- **You can benefit from it.**
  - Example: Joseph was a great ruler.
  - He learned integrity, honesty and loyalty.
  - He learned forgiveness, compassion and management.

- **You are called to live by faith.**

- **You need to know; "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world".**

**CONCLUSION - WATCH OUT FOR QUICK FIXES!**

- There are tares among the wheat
  - God says, "Be still and know that I am God"

- Important to know:
  - Pulling out the tares may be the right thing.
  - But the right thing done at the wrong time can be disastrous.
  - You may do right but be wrong because of timing.
  - You don't pick the fruit the minute you see it, you wait till it is ripe.
  - When God deals with the enemy - it is once and for all.